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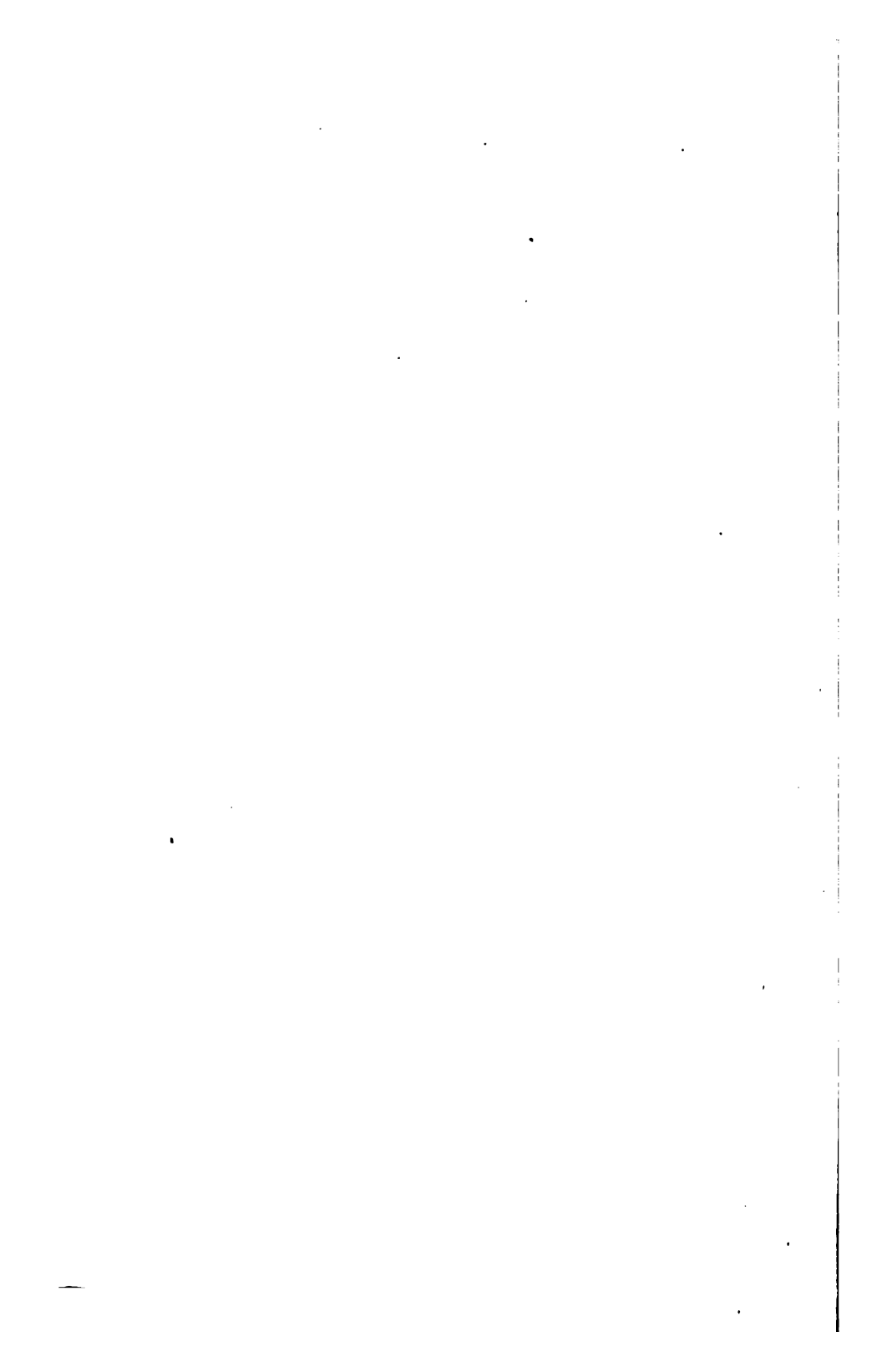
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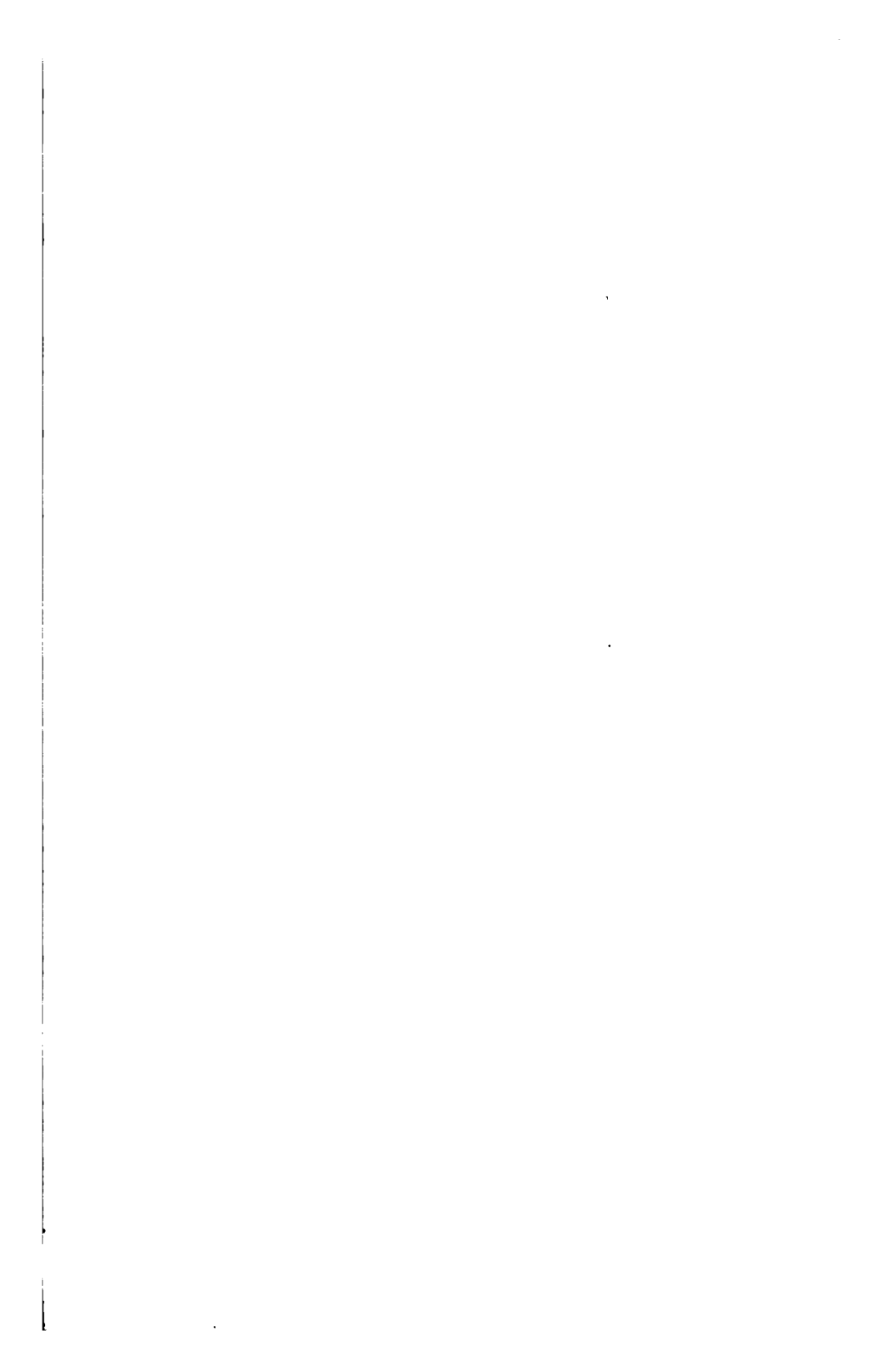


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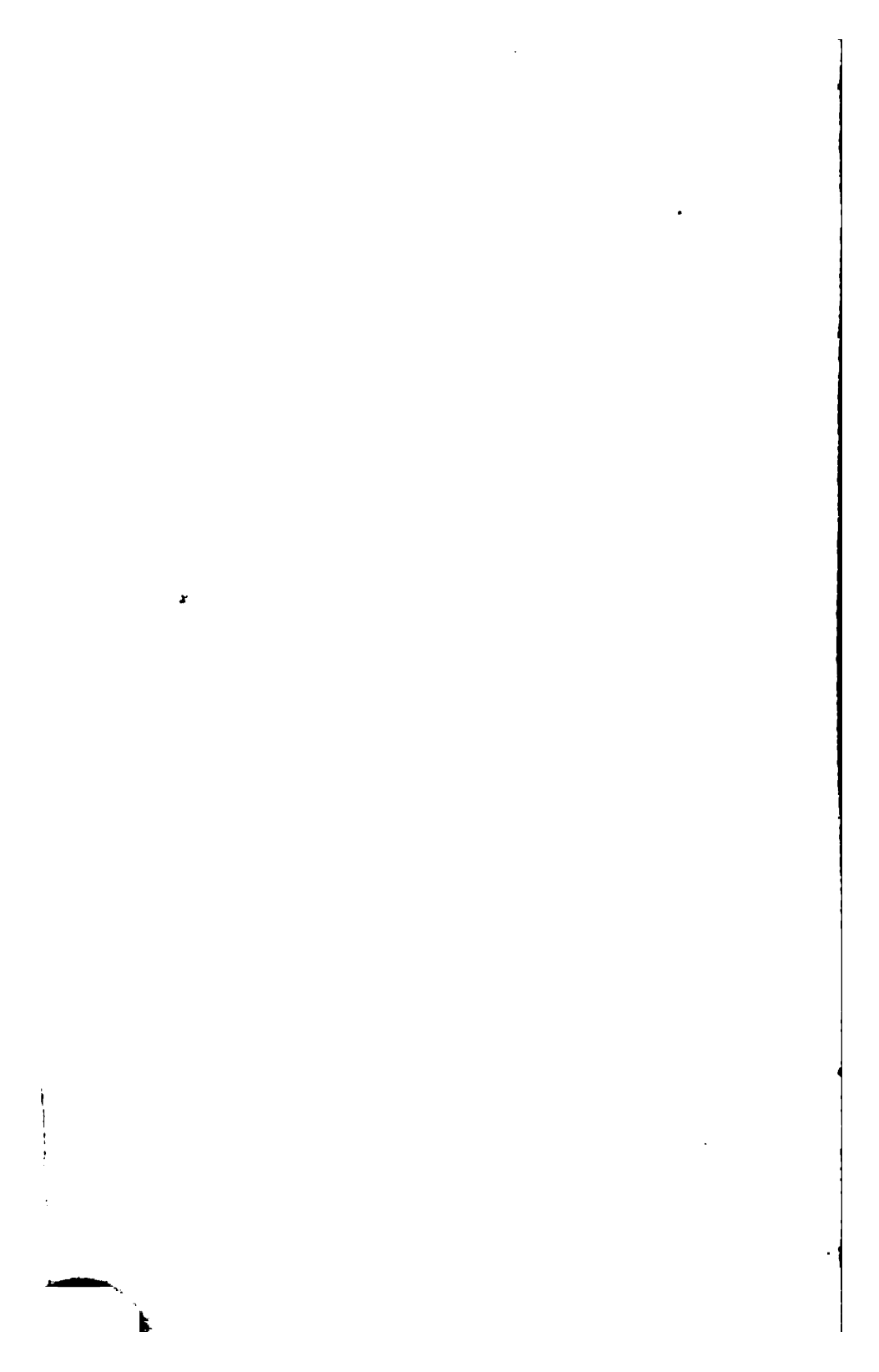
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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE  
STENOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION,

INCLUDING  
PAPERS READ, ETC.,

AT THE  
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT  
ADELPHI HOTEL, SARATOGA,

AUGUST 25th and 26th, 1892.

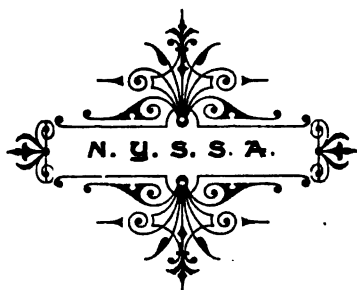
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ELMIRA, N. Y.:  
ADVERTISER PRINTING HOUSE,  
1892.

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*The Association*



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# SEVENTEENTH CONVENTION.

## PROCEEDINGS.

### FIRST DAY.

**T**HE seventeenth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at the Adelphi Hotel, Saratoga, on the 25th and 26th days of August, 1892.

The meeting was called to order by President Rodgers at 8:30 p. m.

There were present :

BAILEY, CHARLES H.....	Buffalo,
BALLANTYNE, MISS M. JEANETTE.....	Rochester,
BURNZ, MRS. ELIZA B.....	New York,
KING, CHARLES F.....	Glens Falls,
LAW, ROBERT R.....	Cambridge,
LITTLE, ADELBERT P.....	Rochester,
LOEB, WILLIAM JR.....	Albany,
McLAUGHLIN, PETER P.....	New York,
RODGERS, SPENCER C....	Troy,
ROSE, THEODORE C.....	Elmira,
SLOCUM, WILLIAM H.....	Buffalo,
WHITE, MRS. CLARA A..	Elmira.

There were also present as visitors the Misses Belle and Carrie Nixon, of Rochester, and Mrs. T. C. Rose, of Elmira.

In the absence of the secretary, William Loeb, Jr., was chosen as secretary *pro tem*.

The President read the annual address as follows :

*Fellow Members:*

For the seventeenth time we are convened. I state this preliminarily that there may be no misapprehension as to our age, and

also because such statement is the customary way of introducing this kind of performance upon the part of him who, by a packed committee generally, has to sit apart from his fellows, (and the girls,) and guess at parliamentary practice. It is to me unsolvable why the presiding officer of every gathering should be expected to deliver a so-called address. When one has choked the gray matter until it is, metaphorically, black in the face in the endeavor to evolve some presentable ideas, which after all as likely as not resolve themselves into a string of weather-stained platitudes, the humorous auditors appoint a committee to see if anything in it be worth attacking. When that committee presents its report we appreciate how much easier it is to criticise than to endure criticism, and then it is that we vow never to accept the chair again—until over persuaded.

Our selection of place of meeting affords an almost irresistible inclination to pad an address with complimentary and poetic allusions to it. I shall content myself with reminding you that you have the unstinted freedom of the town so long as you have the requisite coin of the realm and the inclination to remain in it. Saratoga welcomes you if you promptly pay, and its people care not even were it possible for some prodigy among you to write as fast as some people claim to have done who have to see the rising sun an hour or two later each day than we of this state.

I kindly caution the younger gentlemen to avoid the decorative shops where vermillion may be obtained, lest they appear in the morning with dark brown tastes in their mouths in search of chloride of lime spring water. The old chappies—well, there is no use of advising them publicly. Apply to me after office hours. The ladies are reminded that this is Cupid's summer home; that lovers here acknowledge (sometimes) the first throbbings of that passion of bright hopes, and too many sad realities,—love. The unmatrimonially inclined will do well to remember that a sojourn here is attended with some danger.

It would afford me much gratification to address you at length by way of opening our session, but at the urgent request of several who do not care to have their time abridged, I am under a tacit promise to afflict you as little as possible. I want, however, to say that one who has visited one or more of our gatherings, recently saw fit before a western convention to substantially declare the



New York association in a state of dry rot. This statement may not burrow far under the hide, but "away down deep" do you not think his stricture not so very far out of the way? We have occupied a high pinnacle, chiefly because we are of the greatest state in the galaxy of states and took the initiative in fraternizing. The higher we are the lower we may expect to descend if we fall. Enthusiastic young blood in other states desiring to outstrip us is tugging at our skirts and is willing, as is natural, to pull us down to second, or any other place, so long as it be below. What are you going to do about it? This association would have long ago gone to pieces but for a few very staunch workers who have clung to the organization as a thing worth having and saving. But we do not grow as we ought. While the art is practised by thousands now as against tens when we organized, our membership remains at practically a standstill. Certain sections of the state care not to affiliate with us, and yet they are ever willing to share in the benefit of any legislation we may carry to a successful issue. Is this right? Is it fraternity? Should selfishness be the pole-star all the way through life? We are not the only ones who are similarly situated. New York state with its 6000 or 7000 lawyers has comparatively but a handful at its annual state bar association meetings; they are about the same faces each time, and embrace substantially those who would office and honors have, and who enjoy the good cheer that is incident to the annual dinner at the Delavan. I know of no remedy save individual effort, or else guaranteeing a gilt-edge per diem and all expenses. I have touched upon this subject for I believe it better to be attacked from within our borders than from without. I trust that this subject may receive some radical attention or else let us as an organization asphyxiate as soon as possible, each supporting his own constitution which should read something like this:

"Name, immaterial; object, fun;  
Offices, numerous; membership, one,  
Meetings, continuous;  
Voting, unanimous."

Our gathering to-day indicates to us that as an organization we have reached another mile-stone. I am reminded that to-day I return to your hands the trust committed to me. While grateful for the honor then conferred, the only merit I could claim was an earnest desire for the advancement of the association and a wish to

devote to this end the best efforts of my head and heart. May we all develop enough ginger and sand to make the present meeting no mean comparison with its predecessors.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting, on motion of Mr. Little, was dispensed with.

Mr. Little nominated Robert R. Law, of Cambridge, for membership. Referred.

Under the order of reports of committees, Mr. Little stated that the executive committee had no report to present.

The secretary read the report of Treasurer Hutchins as follows :

#### RECEIPTS.

From previous Secretary.....	\$ 61 50
From sale of proceedings.....	5 50
From assessments.....	117 00
	<hr/>
	\$184 00

#### DISBURSEMENTS.

The Elmira Advertiser Association, printing proceedings for 1890-91.....	\$189 20
Postage, expressage, printing envelopes, assessment notices, etc.....	18 40
	<hr/>
	\$157 60
Balance on hand . . . . .	26 40
	<hr/>
	\$184 00

The Secretary read the following communications:

STENOGRAPHERS' CLUB, }  
CHICAGO, Aug. 17, 1892. }

DEAR SIR:—A World's Congress of Stenographers will be held in Chicago during the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. A local committee of stenographers has been appointed who will have charge of arrangements for the Congress and who will soon issue a preliminary address giving the names of an advisory council. As it is desired to have the names of prominent New York stenographers on this council, will you kindly furnish a list of such names? It is also desired that each state association appoint a committee of co-operation, consisting as far as possible of members who will attend the Congress and represent their association. Will you bring this matter before your association at its meeting this month and suggest the appointment of such a committee? Several associations have decided to hold their annual meeting for 1893 in Chicago during the week of the Congress; this might also be presented to your association for consideration.

Please let me hear from you as soon as convenient and send me a programme of your meeting.

Yours truly,

DAN BROWN.

DRESDEN, SAXONY, August 22, 1892.

DEAR SIR:—I feel very much honored by your kind invitation to attend the seventeenth annual meeting, but I am sorry to be hindered to take part in the meeting. Just at the same time you are assembled, I am bound to take down the proceedings of the Union of the German Velocipedists at Cologne, but I hope to come over the ocean in order to take part in the international meeting of stenographers at Chicago during the World's Exposition.

Wishing your proceedings may prove successful to our common cause, I am  
Yours truly,

J. W. ZEIBIG.

Under the order of election of members, on motion of Mr. Little, Mr. Robert R. Law, of Cambridge, was elected to membership.

Mrs. Eliza B. Burnz presented the report of the Librarian as follows:

#### LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The accessions to the library of the New York State Stenographers' Association, during the year to date, are as follows:

- From Samuel Oppenheim, author; "Early Congressional Debates and Reporters," 54 pp; flexible covers.
- From the Secretary, Irving C. Hutchins; "Proceedings of the New York State Stenographers' Association, for 1890-'01, in one volume.
- From the Secretary, Miss Emma Elliot; "Proceedings of the Indiana State Stenographers' Association," for 1889.
- From Isaac S. Dement, Chicago; A copy of "The National Stenographer," each month, for a year previous to present date.
- From Francis H. Hemperley, Philadelphia; A copy of "The Stenographer," each month, for a year previous to present date.
- From Eliza B. Burnz; Volumes VI and VII of "The Phonographic World," from September, 1890 to August, 1892.
- From S. C. Rodgers, Troy, N. Y.; Vols. II and III, and odd numbers of "The Phonetic Magazine." Also odd numbers of the "Phonetic Educator," the "Phonographic Advocate," the "Phonographic Record," the "Shorthand Writer," the "Rapid Writer," and "The Mentor."

Also a copy of the "Step-by-Step Pronouncing Primer," just published. This primer teaches the reading of ordinary print in the same way that phonography is taught; namely, by the sounds and not the names of letters. By its use, a child obtains a thor-

ough knowledge of the sounds of the language, and children so taught, would afterwards learn any phonetic shorthand far more readily than most persons now do. For, an understanding of elementary sounds is an accomplishment possessed by very few at present.

The permission to have pamphlets, belonging to the library, bound together, has not been taken advantage of by your Librarian because, this being a lending library, a single pamphlet is liable to be called for, and if bound with others the postage would be greatly increased.

ELIZA B. BUENZ,

August 22, 1892.

Librarian.

THE PRESIDENT—As some of the members have prepared papers we can listen to them now.

MR. LITTLE—Mr. President, undoubtedly there are two or three short papers. We have gathered under circumstances not very encouraging, a limited number of members being present. Ordinarily it is customary to have an evening session the first day and discussions the next day. If we dispose of our papers to-day, we will not have anything to do to-morrow. Therefore, I would suggest that we take an adjournment. I think others will arrive to-night, and we should have another session to-morrow.

THE PRESIDENT—If we expect others in to-night it does not seem to be hardly fair to them to have the papers now read. On account of the stormy weather it seems to me that we cannot occupy to-day better than to finish up such business as we have, leaving to-morrow free. There is nothing else to do and we might as well be here and finish up the business. If Mr. Rose is prepared we will listen to his paper.

Mr. Rose then read the following paper:

### THE PROVINCE OF THE STENOGRAPHER.

BY T. C. ROSE, OF ELMIRA.

**I**N HIS interesting and instructive paper presented to this association, at its last annual meeting, Doctor Zeibig refers somewhat briefly to the province of the stenographer in the matter of the revision of speeches and discourses. He says: "Prevost and Delpino (French and Italian stenographers) and with the latter the author, regard the duty of the stenographer from entirely different points of view. While Delpino and with him, indeed,

“the majority of German practitioners, contend for a literal reproduction of discourses, Prevost not only defends, but demands, an embellishment of the report; he insists that it should resemble an artistically finished portrait. Delpino, on the other hand, insists that it should resemble a photograph.” He also adds: “We in Germany are convinced that the embellishment of speeches, in the matter of form, cannot and should not be the province of the stenographer.”

Thus we learn that our brethren in other lands meet with the same difficulties with which we have to contend in our own country; and the same questions arise as to their solution. I doubt though if our German friends are afflicted to the extent that we are, for the reason that their language is less capable of being doubled and twisted and put into so many incongruous forms. I suppose the efforts of their orators, however, like those of our own, are only circumscribed by the limits of flexibility of their language.

In this country we have all had our experience. The great American orator and statesman is so occupied with ideas that he has no time for the consideration of such simple things as words. He generally makes use of the first ones that come handy, and if they fall short in any way of expressing his ideas, he supplements them with suggestive gesticulations, or leaves it for his hearers to supply the deficiency from their imagination; and if his speech is to be published, he expects the stenographer to not only revise it, round out the periods, and add facts and figures, but he expects him to decorate, embellish, and polish to the extent that his constituents will be fairly dazzled, and be compelled to wear smoked glasses in order to read it comfortably.

Nor is this state of affairs confined to our statesmen and politicians: our lawyers and clergymen are subject to the same charge. Not only that, but they smother the ideas they seek to convey in an avalanche of words, entirely oblivious to the fact that they are not alone interested, and that their hearers expect to be instructed. Instead of giving a little thought to the clearness of their propositions, and to the manner in which they shall impress the listener, they shoot off a volley of words that only bewilders, confuses, and renders their efforts without effect and entirely worthless.

I do not believe there is a speaker in America to-day that speaks over two hundred words per minute, but does it at a sacrifice of

ideas. Even Bishop Phillips Brooks, who seems to be regarded as one of the fastest speakers of the day, would, I have no doubt, greatly improve his discourses, and make a better impression upon his hearers, if he gave more attention to the exact value of words and more time to the construction of his sentences. The orator should remember that it is not alone his province to express ideas, but to *impress* them upon the minds of others, and that there must be two or more minds involved in the undertaking.

This profusion of words is what makes it necessary for the stenographer to revise—to uncover the hidden idea and bring it to the surface; and there is such a wide range between the words generally used, and the words necessary to be used, that the stenographer has a great latitude in his work; and thus come in play those qualities that go to make up the successful reporter.

But to return to the question whether it is the province of the stenographer to revise and embellish. Doctor Zeibig urges as one of the reasons for making literal transcript of speeches, the reformation of the speaker, for he says: "Then in case a speaker should have violated the laws of oratory, or of syntax, he would be more likely to be on his guard and not transgress those rules in the future. When the speakers exert themselves to learn to speak, then only can political eloquence in our parliaments be revived."

Who among us desires to commence the good work on this side of the water? While it is very desirable that a reformation should take place, and while a plan of holding up the "photograph" before our speakers, and of letting them see themselves as others see them, might be most effective, I am afraid that the stenographer who should undertake to accomplish the work upon those lines in this country, would find his campaign so short that the good results would hardly be worth mentioning.

When that distinguished statesman upon the floor of congress appealed to the presiding officer with the question, "Where am I at?" even our friend Devine with the prestige of long congressional service, and acknowledged skill in the art, declined to take the chances, by going into the reforming business, and giving a literal translation, although an exact reproduction of the words might have served a further useful purpose; for not only would the gentleman have received the information from the presiding officer

as to how far he had exhausted the subject under discussion, but the world would also have been informed as to how far the subject under discussion had exhausted the gentleman.

I once undertook to reform a lawyer by the method suggested by our distinguished friend Doctor Zeibig. I held up before him the following question which he had propounded to a witness:

"Now assuming the west line of Cross street to pass east of that hickory tree about three feet, can you tell on this map,—assuming that this west line is east of that hickory tree about three feet,—the center of it,—the center of the hickory tree,—that the west line is about three feet east,—the Beard line,—of the hickory tree, can you tell where your west line would strike these lots four and five, assuming that this map is made in accordance with the line I have last described,—that is, a line about three feet further east at the hickory tree, than this is,—the west line?"

The result was not entirely what I had hoped it would be, and since then that lawyer doesn't think I am much of a stenographer.

I was once of opinion that this great defect in our public speakers might be corrected, or at least remedied by concert of action among stenographers, by calling attention to the fact and that our suggestion would be kindly accepted, and a little more attention be given to separating the "golden grains" from the mass of chaff, but experience has taught me differently and my conclusions are that we must for the present at least wait for some other agency to bring about the reformation, and must continue to act, as we have in the past, not only as harvesters in the fields of oratory, but must do the threshing, separate the wheat from the tares, and get the crop ready for market.

I doubt if we will see much change in our day, but perhaps in some happier time our successors will be called upon to report those only who have learned the precise weight and power of words, and who will pay them out at their true and exact value.

THE PRESIDENT—Discussion of the paper is in order.

Mrs. BURNZ—I want to thank Mr. Rose for that paper in respect of the comments that he makes upon rapid speaking, because rapid speaking is not only annoying to the stenographer, but it is very detrimental to the hearer. We not only find it very difficult indeed to grasp the ideas in consequence of the words flowing so

rapidly, but there is not sufficient time given by rapid speakers so that they can be thoroughly understood. Even if they do not smother their ideas, they do not allow the words to be thoroughly grasped by the listeners. I think if every public speaker would limit himself to an hundred and fifty words a minute he would be better understood and appreciated, and his hearers would receive a great deal more benefit from his utterances.

**THE PRESIDENT**—We may assume that Mrs. Burnz's remarks as to the stenographer's annoyance apply to the section east of Detroit. We believe it makes no difference west of that how fast the speaker talks, so far as the stenographer is concerned!

**Mrs. BURNZ**—I shall make no distinction whatever. I claim that in every case the hearers listening to a person speaking would be benefited had they time to thoroughly absorb the words before the next sentence began.

**MR. LITTLE**—Mr. President, speaking of rapid talking, I do not think that terrifies a man half as much as when you encounter a man whom you cannot understand. That paralyzes me, I know, about as much as anything. I will cite an instance that came under my observation a short time ago. I was reporting a convention of railroad conductors at Rochester with about five hundred delegates present. They were popping up here and there all over the hall, and I became terrified by a man clear down at the end of the hall,—one of those fellows who "hu-ho-haw," (imitating a person having an affection of the palate.) He talked for half an hour and I do not believe I got a complete sentence of what he said. The minutes of the proceedings were gotten out each day to be printed, and the printed copies distributed among the delegates, and any delegate was permitted to make corrections of anything found wrong, or rather if he found the stenographer had made any mistakes. They started in each day at one o'clock and ran until seven or eight o'clock, one continuous session. That fellow way down at the rear end of the hall was the first to pop up the next day to make a correction. He said: "Mr. Chairman, I desire to make a correction in my remarks of yesterday." I supposed I was floored. I did not think there was a sentence in the whole business that was correct. But he did not know that I had not gotten his speech correctly. The only thing that he wanted corrected was the number of a lodge, 136 instead of 132, and that let me out.



It occurred to me that if a stenographer is not sure of getting a thing correctly in consequence of misapprehension, in the majority of cases he is getting it correctly. The same with a rapid speaker. He is pushing you for all you are worth and you think you are going to "get left," yet when you copy it out the report is all right. And so a man who has been in the business a great length of time doesn't feel paralyzed when he knows he is going to have a rapid speaker to follow, and yet at the same time if that man read a lot of stuff to him at the same rate of speed that he would have spoken it, he would find that he had a great deal of difficulty in getting it.

MRS. WHITE—I want to say "amen" to that, because I have found out so many times that when they read I could not take them.

MR. LITTLE—I was going to say further in regard to that, that it has been my practice for the last five or six years to take any exhibits that are read in a case, excepting of course maps, for the purpose of getting accustomed to taking matter that is read. I have done it on my own suggestion. I have taken copies of all letters read for the last four or five years. It is not usually done. It is not necessary. If I size up a letter and see that it is pretty long, I let it go. It is a fault that is easily overcome, and it is one that every stenographer has.

THE PRESIDENT—I would like to ask the gentleman in regard to copying exhibits. Very often a number of exhibits are put in together. In our district they are not in the habit of reading them.

MR. LITTLE—We take them anyway!

THE PRESIDENT—When do you get the opportunity to copy them?

MR. LITTLE—I didn't say that I "copied" them. I said I "took" them. If they are read, I take them. If they are not read I copy them.

MR. LAW—Do they read them in your district?

MR. LITTLE—Not always.

MR. LAW—I have had everything from a razor to a bridge-

sleepers offered in evidence. Do you find many men who speak from 350 to 360 words a minute?

MR. LITTLE—It depends upon the stenographer how fast he talks.

MR. LAW—We do not have them up our way.

MR. LITTLE—You will find that if the stenographer has had a number of years' experience, the speaker will talk at the rate of 185 to 225 words per minute only, but if he is a stenographer who has recently graduated from an "eight weeks school," and has not been in business to any great extent, but is anxious to get into business to a large extent, you will be told that he is taking the man at the rate of 450 words per minute. The poorer a stenographer he is and the shorter the time he has been in business, the faster the speaker talks.

THE PRESIDENT—One sometimes has an idea that a man is talking very fast if he speaks in a loud tone and is waving his arms and performing gymnastic exercises, when as a matter of fact he is not talking as fast as the man who speaks in a lower tone.

MR. ROSE—The trouble with the subject suggested by Prof. Zeibig does not arise in the reporting of the words of the speaker, but rather in the copying out of those exact words.

MR. LITTLE—Well, a man is a fool who does that.

MR. ROSE—He says that the German stenographers submit a literal translation for the reformation of the speaker.

THE PRESIDENT—Undoubtedly the best speeches are made by stenographers.

MR. LITTLE—I do not think there is the slightest question but that many a man's reputation is made by the man who is reporting him; that is, if a stenographer has head enough to pick out the sentences that ought not to go in a man's speech, and to put in what ought to go in.

THE PRESIDENT—Speakers never recognize the fact that the stenographer has done anything except to follow him *verbatim*.

MRS. BURNZ—The speaker thinks that the revised report is what he meant to say.

**MR. LAW**—The report is looked upon as accurate if the English is good and it reads smoothly. We have one judge who requires the submission of his charges to him.

**THE PRESIDENT**—We have one judge who never looks his charge over, and he would not make any change if he did. He is superlatively conscientious. He says he has no right to change the stenographer's transcript. I remember after charging a jury the judge asked me to read a section of the charge to him. As I read it he thought one word in it did not sound quite euphonious and he asked me to substitute another word. Later he said, "You can change that word back. I have never asked a stenographer to change a word in a charge, and I will not begin now." Our other judges do not require their charges submitted.

**MR. ROSE**—I think some lawyer undertook some legislation in regard to that a little while ago; forbidding the changing of a charge by a judge after its delivery.

**MR. LITTLE**—It seems to me there ought to be some legislation on the subject. I can give you an illustration of a judge who changed his charge, and then the stenographer was asked to give a copy of the charge as it was delivered and after it was changed. There were two copies of the charge furnished, one as the judge delivered it, and the other as it was changed after delivery. I do not know what has become of it. I have said all along that somebody was going to get into a scrape in regard to this changing of charges after they have been delivered.

**THE PRESIDENT**—The general direction in our district by the judges is to "fix the charge up and make it read straight." They never ask to see a charge. They expect, of course, that the usual lapses will be amended. I simply endeavor to smooth it out as I understand it.

**MR. LITTLE**—How do you do on a motion for a non-suit? Do you take it exactly as they state it?

**THE PRESIDENT**—It depends upon how they state it. If they state the exact grounds for the motion I take it in full; if embodied in a running argument I do the best I can.

**THE PRESIDENT**—Is there any further discussion desired on the

paper? Mr. Loeb has had considerable experience in reporting speeches. We would like to hear from him.

**MR. LOEB**—Mr. President, I enjoyed reading Prof. Zeibig's paper very much and also listening to Mr. Rose's paper to-day. The subject is particularly interesting to me because most of my work as a reporter has been in taking speeches of public men. There is certainly but one course for us to pursue. If in a speech, particularly an extemporaneous one, a speaker does not always express his ideas in smooth language, and is sometimes ungrammatical; if errors occur in his remarks and the stenographer is competent to do so, I think it is clearly his province to embellish and improve the speech, by correcting the mistakes the speaker may have made. It does not seem to me to be fair to make a man appear ridiculous in cold type, on account of some slip of the tongue, especially if the speaker is a man of learning or is prominent in public affairs. The public men of to-day, especially in America, rely on the stenographer to round out broken sentences and to smooth over the rough passages in their speeches, and I think this confidence is a marked compliment to the intelligence of the men engaged in our profession. The German practice of furnishing literal translations of speeches seems to me to be all wrong. I do not think it would be tolerated in this country. Of course, when it comes to transcribing testimony it is a different thing, and I do not think that any one would favor changing materially the language of witness or counsel, for reasons that are at once apparent.

**THE PRESIDENT**—If there is no further discussion, we will listen to a paper by Mr. Little.

Mr. Little read the following paper:

#### UNIVERSAL SHORTHAND.

BY A. P. LITTLE, OF ROCHESTER.

**Q**UENDING a discussion upon shorthand, as a rule the professional stenographer who has had from fifteen to twenty-five years experience should keep still, and the stiller the better. He can have hardly sufficient experience to enable him to discuss questions with the average self-styled professional of one or two years standing. It is true that he may have a slight knowledge

of what has been going on since he first took up the quill, but it would be presumptuous in him to assume that he could cope with the younger tyro who is just fresh from the incubation which made him a full fledged fledgling. It seems almost strange sometimes that the veterans are permitted to exist at all, much less to retain possession of positions the tenure of office for which seems never to expire.

Occasionally an unsuccessful stenographer takes up an old system which has been used for years successfully, inoculates into it some ideas (which were possibly suggested to him by a friend,) gives it a new name, starts a school, puts out a sign and turns on the steam. How much better, in a good many cases, if the hose had been turned on instead. Out of the vast number graduated year after year from stenographic institutions, some become first-class amanuenses, few become first-class reporters. Representatives of various systems of shorthand scattered all over the country are loud in their praises of the system which gave them stenographic birth. No two stenographers write alike, no matter what system is used. I venture the remark, without fear of successful contradiction, that there is not one Graham writer in the United States who writes Graham as it is published, with the possible exception of Mr. Graham himself, and I doubt if he does. There are a very few who follow the text book quite closely who are Munson or Pitman writers. As far as writers of the Rochester system are concerned, no two write alike that I am aware of, and I *know* the publisher of the system does not follow his own text. Some characters which are very easy for one stenographer to make are quite difficult for another. A peculiar characteristic occasionally creeps out in one's writing which is not found in the system as published. Months and years may be devoted to the study of a system, things may have been added and things may have been taken away, rules may have been modified, exceptions varied or expunged, and the writer become so wedded to it that he would use no other. He may not have the time, even had he the disposition, to study up the peculiarities of another system. He is satisfied, he knows his system by heart, he writes mechanically, he has done it for years. If all others desire to change to his method of writing he would agree to a universal system being adopted in that way. Perhaps he is the author of a system which is independent of all others, and

has used it successfully for many years, inducing some others in the meantime to adopt it. If all others would adopt his system, he would be a strong advocate of universal shorthand. Perhaps he is a publisher of a system about which he has had a contention with somebody who claims to be the inventor, or perchance has published a revised edition of some work long since published. A strong supporter of universal shorthand would be found in him were all others to adopt his text book. Possibly he is conducting a stenographic school successfully, having a number of very competent assistants. He would be strongly in favor of universal shorthand if the system which he teaches should be adopted, and all other schools closed while the instructors are reading up on the new system so that they may be able to instruct. Or, perhaps he is a young man just branching out in the business, a writer of a New Lightning Method, who is ready to knock the giblets out of anybody who dare say there is any other system. To him, there is but one system which should be universal. Pages without number of stenographic notes would become undecipherable, volumes of phonographic journals would become useless by the adoption of a universal system of shorthand writing. Advocates of spelling reform hurled their first javelin years ago, and they spell no better and we spell no worse than at that time. Not many followers were obtained, for it is generally conceded that the English language is maltreated enough without the addition of a disfigurement. Somebody, with more time than brains, attempted to get up a universal language, and a few, with the same qualifications, applauded the effort. Now, Volapuk is scarcely heard of. The language of flowers, or even the flirtation language of the handkerchief, have achieved about as good results. There are no two persons alike, and no one thing common to two persons. There may be a similarity almost amounting to exactness, but the differences can be discovered. Borrow your brother stenographer's pen and see how you like it. Ten chances to one you will take out your own and tell him that *that* is the kind of a pen you use, implying by your every action that his does not suit you. Sit down at his favorite machine, if you can, without asking him why he does not get a decent one. Sit at his reporting table exactly as he does, with the chair in the same position, same height, same relative direction with the table, and see how long you can stand it.

Take off your hat and let somebody else put it onto your head and see how it fits. Try to use his method of writing to the abandonment of your own and see how poorly it also fits your head. Why in the world he should write this, that or the other word in *that* way, while *this* is the only proper way to write it, is beyond your comprehension.

Can it be possible, then, that any system of shorthand could give satisfaction to all stenographers? or, that all stenographers would adopt any one system of writing? Conceding these two questions to be answered in the affirmative, how long would it take for shorthand writers in this state to be writing a system almost entirely different from the system used in California, the differences being caused by the "improvements" made by various writers? And, how long would it be before the country would be flooded with revised editions of the Universal System, "amended and improved," "the most rapid in the world," "learned in twelve weeks of easy study," "the acquirement of which is a mere pastime."

MRS. BURNZ—There is a club in New York, recently organized, called the Individual Crank Club. Perhaps Mr. Little would like to join it. (Laughter.)

MR. LITTLE—Mrs. Burnz, the next time you attend you may take in my application. (Renewed laughter.) The far-reaching influence of the Crank Club of New York City will probably have an especial effect upon all who come in contact with its members. I do not know whether we are in the grave presence of any of its members or not, but I can assure all the members of that association and of this Association that there never was and never will be a greater crank in regard to shorthand than the man who hugs to his bosom the idea that there will ever be universality of shorthand. I do not care a continental cent whether it is a person who is experienced in the practice of shorthand, or one who has just bought his book and is beginning to get some idea of the theory of it, it is just as absolutely impossible to reform the stenographic profession as it exists to-day as it is to place Great Britain and the other foreign countries on an equal basis of speaking one language. It has been attempted through Volapuk, but the attempt has utterly failed. Once upon a time,

it is claimed, all spoke a common language. Then the confusion of tongues took place at the Tower of Babel, and from that time to this there have been various languages spoken through the different countries and various familiarities have been taken with the different languages. They follow it out with different courses, but without any apparent result, whether it runs in the line of spelling reform, in the line of grammar or in the line of pronunciation. It is as absolutely impossible to reform the spoken language of a nation as it is to fly. And so it is with the subject of shorthand. There are many people who are practising shorthand professionally who are so absorbed in their work that they would not think of such a thing as changing to another system. There are so many who have used the different systems for so many years that they would not think of using another system. But there are persons who have not used shorthand who think that the universality of shorthand is practicable. There is a gentleman in Syracuse who, perhaps, is at the head of this movement. We do not know what his capabilities are, but I know he is mistaken in his ideas. He wrote to me and I replied to him, and he immediately published it in a shorthand journal. I do not think he ought to have taken such liberty with private correspondence. Only a very few systems are used by professional stenographers. These systems they are wedded to. The publisher of one system would not give way to the publisher of another system, and for these reasons it is as impossible to reform stenography as it is to reform the language.

Mrs. BURNZ—I wish to say I have succeeded in my object. The object of my asking the gentleman to join the Individual Crank Club was to draw him out more fully. I must say that I coincide with Mr. Little entirely in his views regarding the universal shorthand business. If they have a universal system of shorthand in England and it is a success it shows that we in America are a different sort of people. We do not want a universal shorthand system here. I see the impracticability of it just as Mr. Little does.

MR. LITTLE—What do you think about the practicability of it, Mr. Law?

MR. LAW—I do not think it is practicable. It possibly may be desirable.



MRS. BURNZ—I would like to ask Mr. Law whether he considers the methods used in England, which have caused the Isaac Pitman system to be universal there, would be advisable here, if any person had such power?

MR. LAW—I do not believe any person could have such power here.

MRS. BURNZ—I think we do better here than they do in England.

MR. LITTLE—At the same time, if they should run in on us a car-load of their speakers and take us by surprise, I think we would have a picnic, because we are not accustomed to their manner of talking. There is another point I think I have just touched upon which I ought to enlarge slightly upon, and it is this: It makes no difference, in my opinion, whether a universal system is adopted or not; or whether there is one system agreed upon by all stenographers throughout the United States. If that were to be so it would not be six months before there would be dozens of textbooks issued which would be termed revised editions of the universal system. They would come from here, there and everywhere, and every person who writes shorthand would be changing it. No one ever writes a system as it is published, because if he finds something that is giving him trouble he changes it. One stenographer can make some characters easier one way than he can another. The result would be, if there was a universal system in use, that it would be but a short time before there would be a dozen, or fifteen, or more. They would be scattered all over the country. I do not believe it would make the slightest difference whether a single system was adopted or not, because it would not remain single for any length of time.

MR. LAW—We have had, I believe, at one time, what was called a universal fountain pen, but now we have many modifications of it, and each new one claiming to be the best.

MR. LITTLE—The stenographer is liable to do most anything, and to be required to do most anything. It was down in Pennsylvania, I believe, that the judge required the stenographer to subscribe to the oath that the evidence he should take in his court should be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Mrs. BURNZ—There are two points on which I should like to hear from both Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Rose, and they are as to the possibility and the advisability of an universal system.

THE PRESIDENT—I do not think there is any possibility of it, nor do I think it is advisable.

MR. ROSE—I do not know that I can enlarge upon the reasons already given as to its impracticability, and I can not see that it is a thing to be greatly desired.

Mrs. BURNZ—There seems to be an unusual concurrence of opinion among the members present.

THE PRESIDENT—I do not know what the main argument is in favor of universal shorthand, but as I now run it over in my mind I can not see any advantage in it.

MR. LITTLE—Only so far as it has happened down in your district, that if a stenographer dies somebody else may be able to read his notes.

THE PRESIDENT—It is not a fact that no one else was able to read Mr. Post's notes. I am glad of the opportunity afforded to reply to a statement which has gone the newspaper rounds. Mr. Post wrote the Ben Pitman system with the usual changes characteristic in every reporter of experience. His notes were finely formed and any experienced reporter in an hour would be able to "catch on." His notes were submitted to a "Professor" who never did a day of actual reporting in his life, and of course he pronounced them unreadable, as they were not *a la* text books and artistically shaded. A local paper paraded this statement with silly comments. Nevertheless his notes were sent to our office and my partner, Mr. Ruso, and myself transcribed such portions as were required, and we only did what any first-class stenographer could have done.

MR. ROSE—Mr. Little, you say no one writes a system as it is published. Suppose one knows nothing of shorthand but what he has acquired from the study of Graham's Handbook, would you not say that he wrote the Graham system?

MR. LITTLE—Then he is a Graham writer; but my contention is that no Graham writer in the United States writes Graham's system as it is published. And that is true as to any other system.

In the experience you have had, Mrs. Burnz, in looking over other books, do you not find many things that are not practicable when put in use?

MRS. BURNZ—Oh, yes, sir.

MR. ROSE—There is so much in Mr. Graham's system, and his rules of abbreviation are so far-reaching that it takes many years to reach the highest degree of proficiency, but I have never seen the time when the briefness of the outlines, if well made, ever occasioned me any trouble in reading my notes. I do not think illegibility arises from briefness of outline, but rather from imperfectly-made outlines. In some instances I have found it easier to write a long outline than a short one, but I do not believe I gain anything in the way of legibility by so doing.

MR. LITTLE—If you will go over Mr. Graham's book with me I will show you a thousand places where you cannot write his outlines, and you do not use them yourself.

MR. ROSE—I use them so far as I am able, and wish I could use them to a greater extent.

MRS. BURNZ—I find my pupils will write forms and contractions that I would never think of, and yet in accordance with my system. Individual idiosyncrasy will come in and modify any system of shorthand.

MR. LITTLE—I thought you would come to that.

On motion the meeting was here adjourned until 8 o'clock p. m.

## EVENING SESSION.

**T**HE Convention resumed its session at eight o'clock p. m.

The following letter from Mr. Bishop was read :

LIBERTY, Sullivan Co., N. Y., Aug. 23, 1892.

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One thing I want to correct in case I should be unable to be present to make the correction orally. By the last Proceedings it would rather look as though the expense incurred by me in connection with Zeibig's paper—the translation—might have been a

payment to the *translators*. This was not the case; it was a payment to my own amanuensis for taking the *dictation*, from my brother, of the body of the paper and the French extracts. Neither my brother, as to that part of the translation, nor Mr. Dickinson as to the Italian and Spanish extracts translated by him, made any charge whatever; their work was wholly gratuitous and complimentary. I think both of them deserve to have this said for them. My brother had also, on a former occasion helped us out; he had translated the Greek and Latin extracts—the translations contained in foot notes, fine type—in Heffley's long Zeibig translation; and this enhanced the value of that paper, as the Latin and Greek were both—especially the Latin—unclassical, mediæval composition, not readily translatable by the ordinarily equipped scholar.

Also a letter from the Misses Emmons regretting their inability to be present.

MR. LITTLE—In regard to the location of our next meeting a communication was read this morning to the effect that we make provision for meeting in Chicago at the time of the World's Stenographic Exposition. I will call it that for the want of another name. By our constitution we are required to meet in the state of New York. We can also have an adjourned meeting at any time or place, whenever called upon to do so by the President or Executive Committee. The question has arisen as to whether it is a proper thing to hold our next meeting in Chicago. There is some question under the Constitution whether we are able to do so, and I merely present the matter here so that members can look it up and come to a conclusion whether we can or cannot. My way of looking at it is to continue the present officers. The President or Executive Committee can call an adjourned meeting at any time they see fit, and there is no restriction as to location. If we have a meeting at that place, it will do away with our regular meeting. Section 2 of Article X of the Constitution says: "The term of all officers shall continue for one year, or until their successors shall be elected." The question would then arise whether at an adjourned meeting at Chicago we could adjourn over until another time in this state, or whether when this meeting is adjourned we are expected to come together on the fourth Thursday of August, as required by our constitution.

MR. ROSE—Could we not adjourn the regular meeting for two years?

**MR. LITTLE**—Our Constitution says : “There shall be a meeting of the Association, held at such place in the state as may be designated at the preceding meeting, on the fourth Thursday in August, and such adjourned meetings as the association, by a vote of three-fourths of all present, may determine, and at any such adjourned meeting, any business of the association may be transacted except the election of officers.”


Section 2 of Article IX is as follows : “Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or executive committee, of their own motion, and shall be called by the secretary, upon the request of ten members, in writing, specifying the purpose thereof. At such special meeting no business shall be transacted, except such as shall be specified in the notice thereof. At every meeting of the association the presence of nine members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.”

The President announced the reading of a paper on Spelling Reform by Mrs. Burnz.

Mrs. Burnz read the paper as follows :

### “IT DOES MOVE.”

BY MRS. ELIZA B. BURNZ, OF NEW YORK.

N again bringing the subject of Spelling Reform to the attention of the N. Y. State Stenographers' Association, I do so with a feeling that the cause is at home—in the house of its friends. The members have, almost yearly, since 1884, given more or less consideration to the subject, and propositions which on their first presentation appeared startling, now wear a familiar face.

That a revision of our orthography is needed scarce anyone denies. That the present mode of spelling is a great hindrance to the acquisition of the arts of reading and writing among our native population, and an almost insurmountable obstacle to the writing of the language by adult foreigners is unquestioned. That the written and printed English stands as a hideous monster of absurdity when compared with any other language of civilized nations, all expert linguists acknowledge. That a phonetic representation of English, such as obtain in the German, Italian, Spanish and Russian languages, would soon make English the universal language of commerce, most intelligent writers on the subject

agree; but, that providing the English language with a decent phonetic dress would seriously interfere with the etymology of words or obscure the history of the language, is emphatically denied by all noted philologists, such as Max Muller, Skeat, Whitney and their composers. Indeed, it is denied by all profound linguists who have given utterance on the subject during the past fifteen years.

The questions remaining for solution are, how to enlighten the public upon the subject of spelling reform, and how to bring about this much needed revision. Both results are being accomplished by articles on the subject in the public press, in conjunction with the means recommended by the Spelling Reform Association for simplifying orthography. It is pretty well agreed by the leaders that the reform must be a gradual one. The efforts made by the spelling reformers of thirty years ago to introduce, at once, a script and print representation of our language on the basis of a forty letter alphabet, containing from twelve to fifteen new letters proved a failure. The new letters appeared odd, and made both print and script difficult to read. The line of action determined on, at present, is to first eliminate the silent letters, especially those at the end of words and where they are misleading; as the final *e* in *have*, *give*, *live*, *motive*, *definite*; the *ue* at the end of *catalogue*, *decatalogue*, etc.; the *me* in *gramme*, *programme*, etc., and so far as possible, to represent a short vowel by a single letter; thus, writing *deth*, *bred*, *bild*, etc. A resolution was offered in Congress last year by Hon. Frank Lawler, and again this year by Hon. Allan C. Durburow, both of Chicago, as follows :

*Resolved, by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring,)*

That the Public Printer be and is hereby directed, in all work for Congress and the Departments begun after the passage of this resolution, to adopt the following rules for amended spellings, except in educational and other works where a different orthography may be required :

First.—Drop *ue* at the end of words like *dialogue*, *catalogue*, etc., where the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell *demagog*, *epilog*, *synagog*, etc. When the preceding vowel is long, as in *prorogue*, *vogue*, *disembogue*, retain final letters as at present.

Second.—Drop final *e* in such words as *definite*, *infinite*, *favorite*, etc., when the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell *opposit*,

preterit, hypocrit, requisit, etc. When the preceding vowel is long, as in polite, finite, unite, etc., retain present forms unchanged.

Third—Drop final *te* in words like quartette, coquette, cigarette, etc. Thus spell cigaret, roset, epaulet, vedet, gazet, etc.

Fourth—Drop final *me* in words like programme. Thus spell program, oriflam, gram, etc.

Fifth—Change *ph* to *f* in words like phantom, telegraph, phase, etc. Thus spell alfabet, paragraf, filosofy, fonetic, fotograf, etc.

Sixth—Substitute *e* for diphthongs *æ* and *œ* when they have the sound of that letter. Thus spell eolian, esthetic, subpena, esofagus, atheneum, etc.

N. B.—No change in proper names.

The House Committee on Education has agreed to report this resolution favorably, with the addition that, when the dictionaries offer two spellings, the public printer shall use the shorter or simpler form.

Few writers and publishers, however, who exemplify amended spelling, are satisfied with so small an amount of revision as is proposed by the Durborow resolution; and the 24 Rules for new Spellings, authorized by the philologists and recommended by the Spelling Reform Association, are employed to a greater or less extent. The 24 rules have been reduced to 14, as follows :

#### FOURTEEN RULES FOR SHORT SPELLING.

English spelling is the worst in the world. Millions of dollars are wasted each year in the writing and printing of useless letters. The education of our children is retarded and the progress of our people is hampered by our cumbrous, illogical, misleading orthography. The scholarship of the world is almost a unit in demanding a change. The American Philological Association has recommended the following RULES FOR NEW SPELLINGS, for IMMEDIATE USE :

1. Omit silent *e* after a short vowel, as in hav, giv, liv, motiv, determin, infinit, etc.
2. Omit silent *e* in the termination *le*, as in apostl, humbl, peopl, etc.
3. Omit final *te* in the words like quartet, coquet, cigaret, etiquet, etc.
4. Omit final *me* in words like program, oriflam, gram, etc.
5. Omit *ux* at the end of words where the preceding vowel is

short, as in catalog, dialog, demagog, epilog, synagog, harang, etc. Change *quz* to *x* in words like burlesk, mosk, brusk, etc.

6. Omit the termination *uex* in words like thro, thoro, boro, etc.

7. Where a word ends with a double letter, preceded by a short vowel, omit the last, as in shal, wil, clif, eg, ad, etc.

8. Omit *a* and *o* from the digraphs *xa* and *xo* when pronounced as *e* short,, as in hed, helth, thred, jepardy, lepard, etc.

9. Omit silent *o* from the digraf *ou*, as in dubl, trubl, jurnal, jelus, virtuus, etc.

10. Omit silent *x* in such words as crum, det, dout, lim, num, dum, etc.

11. Omit silent *t* before *ch* as in cach, fech, wich, pich, stich, cluch, etc.

12. Change final *ed* to *t* in words like crost, lookt, finisht, publiisht, wisht, etc.

13. Change *ph* and *gh* to *f* when they have the sound of that letter, as in fantom, telegraf, alfabet, paragraf, filosophy, fotograf, tuf, enuf, lafter, etc.

14. Substitute *x* for the diphthongs *æ* and *œ* when they have the sound of that letter, as eolian, esthetic, diarrhea, subpena, esofagus, etc.

It will be seen that eleven of these rules relate to the omission of useless letters, mostly at the end of words, and but three to a change of characters for shortening the word.

Observance of these rules makes the spelling as nearly phonetic as it can be made without changing letters or adding new or marked ones. If to these rules are added the marked letters of Webster's dictionary which indicate the long vowel sounds, and if the letters and digraphs which are generally understood to represent the consonant sounds, are uniformly used, as *s* always for the sound of *s*, *z* for the sound of *z*, *k* for the sound of *k*, etc., the really phonetic print is produced known as the Anglo-American, which has been fully illustrated in the Spelling reform department of the *Phonographic World* for the past two years.

And here it seems pertinent to acknowledge the generous aid given by the stenographic press in the effort to straighten out our crooked orthography. Foremost in this philanthropic work is Jerome B. Howard of Cincinnati, in his editorship of the *Phono-*



*graphic Magazine*. Mr. Howard advocates the simpler spelling in the best possible way; namely, by using it on almost every page. He does not ask "Is amended spelling popular among phonographers?" or, "Will not my subscription list be diminished if this unusual spelling appears on the pages of the *Phonographic Magazine*?" But, seeing that the proposed changes are in the interest of progress and humanity, he uses them, and so accustoms his readers to the sight of the new forms and leads them to appreciate the better way.

*The Stenographer*, conducted by F. H. Hemperley, is outspoken in approval of revised spelling and has published several articles in its favor. Mr. Dement, while less enthusiastic in behalf of the cause, has opened the columns of the *National Stenographer* to a presentation of its claims, and says in a letter; "We realize the necessity for spelling reform, and hope to see the day that something may be accomplished in that line." Mr. Miner has for the past two years appropriated two pages of the *Phonographic World* to information and discussion on the topic of amended orthography, and both he and Mr. Madeira are believers in its need. The stenographic press has thus vindicated the profession from the charge of selfish opposition to a great educational reform. For, in consequence of the almost supreme importance of what is called "correct spelling," in the eyes of the employers of stenographic help, members of the profession might almost be pardoned for determining that, in self defense, they would follow the advice of a certain shorthand teacher who tells his pupils to "shun spelling reform as they would the plague."

That, during the past two years, there has been a great increase of popular interest on the subject of amended spelling, is shown by the frequent articles in reference to it which have appeared in the public press, and the special periodicals now issued in its advocacy. *The Journal of Orthoepy and Orthography* and *The Spelling Reformer* are issued monthly, by Dr. C. W. Larison, Ringoes, N. J. "*Our Language*," devoted to preserving, extending and improving English speech," is published by Fred A. Fernald, a graduate of Harvard, and for some years on the editorial staff of D. Appleton & Co., 8 Bond St., New York. *The Leader* is sent out monthly, from Wichita, Kansas, by G. W. Collins. All these papers are spelled in more or less accordance with the fourteen rules given

above, and some add the marked vowel letters. *The Altruist*, published by Alcander Longley, St. Louis, Mo., prints a page, regularly, in the American Phonetic Alphabet, which has but a single letter for each sound.

In producing the "Step-by-Step Pronouncing Primer," the arrangement of which has been my chief work during the past year, and which has just come from the press, I consider that one of the best blows for spelling reform has been struck. Although no change is made in the spelling of words, its use will enable a child or foreigner to learn to read in one half the time now necessary; and, besides, will compel a thorough acquaintance with the elementary sounds of the spoken language in both teacher and pupils. In addition, it reveals to the eye, by means of light-line letters, the immense waste of time, labor and money caused by the use of letters which represent nothing; being as useless as a fifth wheel would be to a wagon.

It is now not at all uncommon to find more or less of the short spellings in pamphlets, and even more pretentious works. W. M. Griswold, B. A., of Cambridge, Mass., has sent out several "Descriptive lists of Novels and Tales," in which marked letters are employed, and all the *gh's* left out of the spelling, or changed to *f*, as in "enuf." The State Librarian at Albany, Melvil Dewey, A. M., has issued "Decimal Classification, for arranging, cataloging and indexing Public and Private Libraries;" a five dollar book, in which appear the shortened spellings "hav, relativ, sercher, clast," and numerous others. A well known writer for typographical journals, Mr. Henry R. Boss, of Chicago, is publishing a "Printers Lexicon," in which the Six Rules embodied in the Durborow resolution are used throughout. It even appears that the keepers of those orthographic temples, the dictionaries, are becoming ashamed of the uncouth antics of their idol; for the Century dictionary gives seven pages in an appendix at the close of its last volume, to the shorter spellings approved by the Spelling Reform Association; thus inviting the whole English speaking people to take their choice between the rude word forms of the past and the simple and more artistic forms of the present, and giving all those who use the latter, the very best authority for so doing.

So, in the words of the illustrious Galileo, "It does move." And, as that level-headed, far-seeing philosopher of a hundred

years ago, Benjamin Franklin, when writing upon the need of a simplification of English spelling, said; "Sooner or later, it must be done."

MR. LITTLE—Mr. President, for fear that the writer of the paper may think that I am not still interested in the subject, as I believe I have risen on every occasion since 1884, I take this occasion to say that I still stand in my old tracks, as she expected I would. We have listened to the different discourses upon the question of spelling reform with a great deal of interest. As for myself, I look upon it as a thing which is so far in the future that it is really not discoverable to the naked eye,—the adoption of the so-called spelling reform. But the illustration which has been given in regard to the uses of some things which have been referred to as being as "useless as the fifth wheel of a buggy," brings to my mind the fact that they must be useful, for every buggy has a fifth wheel. But aside from that it is a question which has interested stenographers more or less in the discussions which they have had at their various meetings, and in the discussions which they have had among themselves, as to whether it is feasible to change the old orthodox spelling and abide by the rules which have been promulgated by one association or another. I do not believe it is policy to do it. There are a great many reasons for thinking so, as well as a good many reasons for not thinking so. It would confuse a very great many people for a time, because they would never know when to leave the "e" off and when to put the "e" on, for there are a great many rules and possible exceptions. I think I discovered about nineteen exceptions in the paper read. It would keep a person at his wit's end to know whether to leave it off or keep it on. Aside from that, I have always said, as I state now, that I cannot discover any possible reason for it. There are men, (and men, of course, includes all persons,) who very strongly advocate spelling reform, and advocate it for very good reasons. But where there is one, there are thousands who are equally intelligent who claim there is no advantage in it. I do not pretend to belong to the latter class of people. I simply stand here and discuss the question on the basis of being interested, not because I have any special reason or any special ability in deciding upon the reason. The subject is being considered by a great

many people. As Mrs. Burnz has suggested, the matter is being printed by people who are conducting the phonographic magazines. It is being used by Jerome Howard, a friend of mine. He has degenerated enough to print his magazine in that kind of spelling. I think it has injured him to the extent of seventy-five per cent. There is no question about it. It is not a question of dollars and cents with him. It is because he is a man of one opinion. He does not listen to the opinions of others, but if he did he would find ninety-nine out of every hundred of his readers who would kick against that kind of spelling. Other magazines of the stenographic art give space to it. They do so because stenographers are interested in it. The Century Dictionary gives seven pages to the subject of spelling reform. If it was a subject they were very much interested in it seems to me they might possibly scare up more than seven pages. But aside from anything else, it occurs to me that there is not a necessity for it, and upon that I base my entire remarks. I suppose spelling reformers have faith in the final accomplishment of what they desire. It reminds me, however, of the man who had supreme faith after he was advised to have it. He lived beside a high mountain, and on the other side of the mountain was a beautiful valley, and he always thought if that mountain had never been there, he would have had a very beautiful view all over that valley, and his place would be much more pleasant to live in. He went to confession one night. He had been having some trouble and the priest told him he had not been praying enough. The priest quoted from the scriptures and told him that the Lord would move mountains if he would only have faith. He thought he had him then, and he went home and prayed until daylight for the Lord to move that mountain, and then he got up in the morning and looked out and said, "There you are, just as I expected."

Mrs. BURNZ—Finding that the mountain of English orthography would not move, the spelling reformers have tried to move that mountain. That is what I have done in getting out this Step-by-Step Primer. There is no word changed in the spelling, but the phonetic spelling of the word appears upon the face of it. For instance, if "o" sounds "u" I put a small "u" under the "o;" if "s" sounds "z" I put a small "z" under the "s;" if "c" sounds "s," as in "nice," I put a small "s" under the "c," and so on. The five short vowels are denoted by unmarked vowel letters. The

long vowel sounds have the usual diacritical mark. When a letter is silent, the fact is denoted by very fine type. By these devices, and using a few of the character marks occurring in Webster's dictionary, I have made the print phonetic, so that a child cannot possibly mistake the spelling of a word.

MR. LITTLE—Mrs. Burnz, do you not think it is very much like the adoption of universal shorthand writing?

MRS. BURNZ—Not at all.

MR. LITTLE—Is not your opinion prejudiced because you are engaged in it more or less?

MRS. BURNZ—In learning to be a phonographer I became imbued with the spirit of phonography, which is to represent a sound by a sign. We can use types as I have shown here, which will make the print phonetic without going to the extreme of using new letters. We can use Webster's marked letters and we can use light lines or italics.

MR. LAW—Is not this one of the difficulties, looking at it in a practical way, that each spelling reformer, or each group of spelling reformers, has different sets of characters?

MRS. BURNZ—We have "pooled our issues." We say, for the present "go no further than I have indicated here." The spelling by these rules has full authority.

(Mr. McLaughlin in the chair.)

Mr. Rodgers read the following paper:

### OCCUPATION NEUROSES.

BY S. C. RODGERS, TROY, N. Y.

"— I know that the pen will fall  
From my nerveless grasp at last."

**D**OUTBLESS the inscription at the head of this paper conveys little significance to you, but as it unfolds I trust that your interest may be at least partially awakened; and if I tax your patience by well-intentioned prolixity, I ask your indulgence and crave that you recall that however acute sufferers you were when you so generously accorded me patient audience in the presentation of the dry facts and figures in the series of papers upon the "Laws" they did not become a chronic epidemic. The interval

which has elapsed since the cessation of those papers, I may hope, has fortified you to bear with me in the presentation of what I may submit. I sincerely regret that in so doing I am obliged to employ more than is my choice technical terms, but it is only because they more succinctly and intelligently express just the idea intended to be conveyed and not from any desire to air any supposed knowledge, for the information is not wholly original but in large part is borrowed plumage. The terms employed, however, ought of all professional people to embarrass the well-equipped stenographer about the least. I have no fear that they will severely strain anyone present, for most if not all of you many times a year encounter their counterparts or affinities if at all engaged in ordinary routine court work, and I know I am not addressing those who display their note books and button-holed lead pencils upon the street at all hours.

I have so far departed from the beaten path pursued by those who prepare papers for shorthand writers' conventions as to make it quite proper, it seems to me, to tender a preliminary apology before plunging *in medias res*. At the outset let me say if any of you shall weary as I progress I will deem it no discourtesy but a positive favor if you will move to lay the paper upon or even under the table permanently. The object of my paper is far from instructing you how, when or where to write shorthand, but is designed to cast a little illumination, feeble though it may be, upon a malady which is liable to invade anyone of you, in which event it is certain to interest you as scarcely any other subject ever has, for upon your absolution from it will depend your continuance in your chosen profession. As the profession increases in numbers in like ratio will the scope of "professional disease" be enlarged, and if the synopsis which I have the honor of presenting to your kindly forbearance, derived from an inspection of more than two hundred books upon a subject the literature of which is comparatively scanty, supplemented by a personal experience of three or four years, shall prove of the least value to any present or future sufferer, I may regard my effort in this direction as not illy tendered.

The particular "occupation disease" which I shall endeavor to discuss is that of "writers' cramp" or what is commonly but doubtless erroneously called by the layman "pen paralysis." In but one American or German publication does the latter term appear, but

it is universally indexed as "writers' cramp," though the English works sometimes term it "scriveners' palsy." While the commonly used term is "writers' cramp," the disorder is best named "writers' spasm," as writers are mostly affected. It has been variously designated, according to the prominence which each writer on the subject has given to some one symptom; thus it has been called scriveners' palsy, cheiropasm, chorea scriptorum, mogigraphie, and several other names, a recitation of which would weary you and distress me. I only cite a few so that you may be able to recognize the article in case you stumble over it.

Bartholow says the term "writers' cramp" is a faulty one, but no really better designation has been proposed. It is intended to embrace the idea of a muscular disability produced by overuse in a strained position of certain muscles. It is called "writers' spasm" because so many such cases have arisen. Dr. Beard thinks that the term "writers' cramp" is the worst possible misnomer and that the disease is most imperfectly understood in medical literature, but that the term is at once so short, familiar and easily retained that it is not well to attempt its displacement.

Reynolds' "System of Medicine" states that the term is bad in one respect, because the symptoms it denotes do not belong exclusively to the act of writing, but yet it is a good term and therefore retained because it points to the most frequent form in which the disease is exhibited and because it has passed into general usage. Wherever it is found it shows the same general features expressed in the definition: "A limitation by spasm of a particular kind of movement and that movement only."

The term "Occupation Neuroses"\* is adopted from the German and is a convenient designation for a group of maladies in which certain symptoms are excited by the attempt to perform some oft-repeated muscular action, commonly one that is involved in the occupation of the sufferer. The symptoms occur in the part by which the action is effected, and the action is interfered with by them. The term "cramp" sets forth the muscular spasm which in most cases is the chief but rarely the sole symptom. There is usually not only spasm, but pain which is not a direct result of the spasm and may be the only obtrusive symptom. Persons who em-

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\*Nervous diseases in which sense and action are impaired without any local disease.

ploy certain muscles constantly in other acts than writing are sometimes similarly affected. Thus pianists, harpists, organists and violinists are not able to play, composers cannot set type, tailors and seamstresses lose the power of guiding the needle, turners are unable to move the lathe with the foot; and so with flower-makers, watch-makers, artists, dancers, shoemakers, engravers, saddlers, knitters, and even milkmaids. Blacksmiths, auctioneers, bicyclists and fencers are liable to it. Prolonged driving of spirited horses has been known to produce a disorder of this sort. There is also a "counting money cramp," and a case is recorded of a lady in the treasury department thus afflicted, the difficulty being caused by excessive and restricted use of the fingers in handling bills. If any one of our profession is to be afflicted with the misfortune under consideration it can never be from this cause. It is rumored that some of our former co-laborers fear a "coupon-cutting cramp." We of the east are often subject to money cramp, and for good reason. The small boy's "green apple cramp" cannot properly be classed as an occupation disease, acute though it may be for the time being. Neither can "bather's cramp" be included.

Telegraphers, who use to some extent the same muscles as in writing, are liable to suffer from both writers' and telegraphers' cramp at the same time. The *Paris Medical Journal* mentions a form of cramp like that of "writers' cramp" occurring in those engaged in preparing photographic plates. Hammond speaks of a case, indirectly connected with this disease, in which a clergyman suffered from spasmodic winking of the left eye, and this trouble was misconstrued by some of the female members of his congregation. Happily he was eventually cured. Recently in New York a candy store clerk had a nervous affection of her eye which caused it to wink in the most fascinatingly suggestive manner on provokingly inopportune occasions, and it was the means of so emboldening an admirer as to land him in the Tombs.

A case is mentioned of an architect who worked against time to complete the details of a plan; of a lady striving to finish within two or three days an etching for a bazaar, and of a woman who could no longer hold a knitting needle; of another who could not take up her dress between her thumb and fore-finger, while yet another could not toss over a letter into a letter-box.



A compositor's right hand in eight hours travels about seven miles, and hence printers' cramp. The *New York Times* mentions a case of a lady who overtaxed herself on an elaborate set of altar-cloths and brought on "embroiderers' cramp" which attacked the wrist and elbow muscles. The case will be recalled of the man who, some years ago, undertook on a wager to make a million of marks within a certain time. Swelling of the hand and wrist, with severe pain, so annoyed the experimenter that it was necessary to pour cold water upon the hand and wrist to avoid various lesions of them. In the Surrogate's office in New York the clerks frequently complain of swelling of the wrist from over-writing. In cramped and continuous movement and tension of the muscles is found the philosophy of all these forms of professional cramp.

Thus it is that under the general term "writers' cramp" a large number of essentially different vocations have been included which have only features in common and more or less analogous phenomena; in writing and other complicated and delicate occupations, the integrity of the requisite movements is owing to care, while the coarse, muscular movements as a rule are perfectly quiet and normal. I shall discuss, therefore, those spasms which evidently result from disorders of co-ordination, and involve delicate and complex motor acts, under the term "*spasm of the hand with inco-ordination*," or "*artisans' neurosis*."

Any occupation which requires incessant use of a certain set of muscles of the fore-arm or hand may lead to this distressing condition, which consists of the impairment of the power of co-ordination for the performance of certain acts, and it is a consequence of long continued performance of those acts.

Lewis says the earliest notice of writing affection that he can find was by Ramazini, in 1746, but that most of the articles upon the subject have been written in the last twenty or twenty-five years. The idea that it originates from the use of steel pens is without foundation as the affection was recognized before their introduction, and occurs in quill pen users, and yet one writer says that the introduction of steel pens corresponds with the appearance of writers' cramp, and there is no doubt the use of them tends to favor the disease owing to the roughness of the point, and the steel pointed penholders continually carrying away heat from the

fingers to this extent lowers the vitality.\* *American Notes and Queries* says that steel pens came into use in 1803, and about twenty-two years later those composed of gold made their appearance. Lewis also scouts the idea as preposterous that there is sufficient electricity generated to affect the fingers through a metallic pen and pen holder. All this shows what curious reasons are employed in attempting to explain obscure and difficult subjects.

If we analyze in detail the physiological series of acts concerned in writing, as has been done by Duchenne, (France,) and especially by Zuradelli, (Italy,) it will be found that this act results from a combination of most delicate and complex movements, demanding an harmonious and precise co-ordination, and an alternating action of certain muscles of the fingers. The formation of the thick and fine strokes, which is carried on by the thumb and first two fingers, is performed, in its first half, by the synergic extension of the last, and flexion of the first phalanges; in the second half an inverse action is produced by a simultaneous contraction of the deep flexor and common extensor of the fingers. The propulsion of the hand along the lines, and the movements of immersion and drawing back the pen, are effected by contractions of certain others. Thus it is in writing that a large number of muscles are kept in constant, strained and unceasingly modified activity. It is essentially the small muscles of the hand which are brought into action. Zuradelli has discussed the subject very fully as to the various movements that produce the several strokes which in combination form writing. The characters of writing, like the notes of piano-forte playing, are formed essentially by the association consequent upon long practice of a large number of very fine degrees of contraction of the small muscles which are almost involuntary and which follow one another with extraordinary rapidity. There is in addition a definite movement of the whole hand to the right, and particularly to the gradual extension of the forearm. The resultant of these two motions is the line on which

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\*Henry George believes that writers' paralysis, or cramp, comes from the use of steel pens. "Whoever heard of it in the days of the quill pen?" he asks. The objection may be made that the *cacoethes scribendi*, the mad rage for writing that characterizes the nineteenth century did not exist in the days of quills and parchment, when writing materials were scarce and costly. Modern New York probably does more writing in a week than all Europe did in a century of those days before the cheapening of paper, pens, ink and education.—*New York World*.

we write. We all know how much practice it takes to acquire a quick, fluent hand. Ultimately the association and co-ordination of the several movements become so firm and certain that they follow one another almost or quite involuntarily. It is not easy to understand how simple muscular actions can be performed with facility whilst the same muscles refuse to play their part in complicated associated movements. The harmonious co-operation of the individual movements is absolutely requisite in order that the act of writing should be performed with the usual facility, and it is evident that disturbance of this harmony, which is the result of long practice, may proceed from very different points of the motor apparatus. Every change in the capacity of the co-ordinating apparatus for work and excitability will exert an influence in disturbing the co-ordination of the movement. If the excitability and functional activity of particular fibres be augmented convulsions will be produced in the muscle even when the voluntary impulses have undergone no change in strength. It is evident, therefore, that in this complex series of movements we especially call into requisition the small muscles which, in certain conditions of individual excitability, are readily affected with spasm. The repetition of the latter will result in progressive weakness of combined movements, and may finally jeopardize the power of writing. According as the movements are embarrassed in different degrees, or perhaps even abolished, various forms of writers' cramp will be manifested. Sometimes the formation of fine lines is markedly interfered with, the first and second phalanges forming, during flexion, a more obtuse angle than usual.

In order to understand writers' cramp it is necessary to remember what, physiologically, is involved in the education of the muscles to perform certain complicated acts. The will does not pick out the muscles which are to be brought into play to hold a pen; it simply directs itself to the result. The combination or co-ordination, of the muscular contraction, is determined by the will but is effected by another agency. The performance of writing is a very complicated process, requiring for its efficient performance the integrity of a great number of different parts, which the books explain at length, but the naming of the various muscles and nerves is not necessary here. Failure in any one portion of the moving apparatus interferes with the production of the movement

that is required, and the kind of failure is determined by the location of the lesion; or, in other words, by the nature of the process or function which is lost or disturbed. The pen movements may be partially guided by the eye, but the guidance is defective for the most complicated acts. If the motor nerve be damaged the muscle is *pro tanto* palsied. If the sensory nerves be injured sensation is defective. If the sense of muscular condition be in abeyance the power to control either the kind or force of contraction is without its guide.

Many movements are automatic; we adopt them without education and without effort; others are the result of laborious practice. It would seem that the body is naturally endowed with certain paths or lines of nerve-action along which all moves easily. But the process of education in performing writing, &c., consists in a frequent repetition by an act of the will of certain forced complicated movements. Repetition makes them easy until at length they are executed without effort and almost unconsciously. By education, what was once difficult and required effort, becomes more and more easy and at last secondarily automatic. It cannot be doubted that some changes may and do take place in the nutrition of the parts through which these lines of nerve-action run, and their education involves structural alteration in the organs. No man writes well who has not keen sight and quick sense of touch, just as no man plays the violin well who has not an acute ear and a delicate power of feeling in his fingers. In all cases of educated movement some "sense" is needed, and it is an important element in the process by which the result is obtained. What happens in writers' cramp, and like maladies, is a perverted nutrition of the parts; a worn-out activity, or a degeneration which may arise without over-exertion. The disease is known to pass readily from one side of the body to the other. Co-ordination of movement is a most complex process, requiring integrity of sensation as well as of motor nerve and of cerebellum. The real mischief may be some want of limiting and guiding influence ordinarily coming through sensation from external impressions.

Although we speak of it as "cramp," there is not an actual condition of cramp. The muscles are not paralyzed, and are equal to all other work except the particular duty in which they acquired the disability. There is impotence in respect of the particular

position and movements involved for writing. There is no disorder of intelligence, no lack of ideas, and the motorial apparatus is intact; but the muscles so long and constantly employed in the prehension of the pen, the poising of the hand and forearm, and in the movement of the pen, become unequal to the task.

Under the head of "writers' spasm," as I have stated, are included various morbid conditions, for it is only in common that they disturb or render impossible the delicate and complicated movements required for writing. It is impossible to classify with any degree of accuracy the several forms in accordance with their genesis, whilst the symptoms of disturbance of or interference with particular avocations which is common to them, keeps them sufficiently together in practice. Three divisions are suggested by Benedict—the spastic, the tremulous, and the paralytic form.

It may not be amiss to give quite in detail the symptomatology of the disease as set forth by various authors, for no two persons are afflicted exactly alike, and those who suspect they may be afflicted will thus be able to determine with more accuracy whether the symptoms apply to their own case.

The spasms of the hand, with inco-ordination, which are manifested in writing, appear most frequently within the territory of the median nerve (spasms of the flexors,) of the radial nerve (sudden extension of the fingers,) or finally, of the ulnar nerve (deviation of the hand to the right and outwards.) The spasm in the direction of the median nerve may be tonic (*i. e.*, steady and regular,) in which case the thumb and index finger are curved inwards and seize the pen convulsively; at other times the spasm is clonic, (*i. e.*, alternate or irregular,) and then these two members are forced to perform a movement of propulsion, which often causes the pen to twirl around its own axis, or presses the pen firmly to the paper.

In the beginning of the affection, and it comes like a thief in the night, a disagreeable sensation of tension in the hand is only felt after the patient has been writing for a long time, and hardly attracts attention at first, until the hand becomes more and more fatigued, and, together with the fingers, soon becomes attacked with tremor, which forces the patient to rest frequently while writing. As this difficulty in writing becomes more marked the formation of the thick and fine strokes becomes interfered with,

and the letters become small, poorly formed, and indistinct. When the attempt is made to correct this imperfection by increasing the attention and the efforts to handle the pen, an increase in the spasms and weakness of the hand is the result. This is soon followed by complete spasm of the flexors and extensors, contraction (spasm with tremor) in certain muscles of the fingers, producing a painful tension, more marked in the extensor muscles of the forearm, but involving even the muscles of the shoulder and thorax. The growth of the disability is slow. Fatigue in the much used muscles, pain in the forearm, in the wrist and in the hand, are experienced. So strong is the sense of fatigue, and it may be pain, that the arm is steadied, and the pen is seized with a firmer grip; great efforts are made to relieve the fatigued muscles by writing with the whole arm. The writing changes its character and became irregular. The muscles of the first three fingers after a time are given to fibrillary trembling. The thumb is especially affected, and is also often the seat of a dull aching pain. Finally writing becomes impossible. The pen is taken up, a strong effort of the will tries to force the muscles to the task, but they obstinately refuse to execute the movements. Supervision, of the higher senses over the muscular movement ceases to be exercised. In other words, the mode of writing becomes largely automatic. For a time one writes better when his time is not occupied in directing the formation of every letter, and allows the muscles as it were to take care of themselves. Constantly, however, he feels the necessity of mental action, and this action invariably increases the difficulty until at last the moment the attempt is made to write, the pen, actuated by the muscles of the fingers, executes such disorderly movements as to bear no analogy with the words attempted to be written. The spasm is much worse if the patient be excited or is particularly anxious to do his best. Besides fibrillary trembling a condition of tonic spasm seizes the thumb and flexors of the fingers.

There is still another group of cases in which a marked paresis or weakness of the flexors of the thumb and fingers takes place, and fibrillary trembling frequently coincides with the weakness. This group is called the paralytic form. There is another group in which the flexors and extensors are occupied by cramps and

there is no trembling, no sense of fatigue, and the sensibility remains intact.

The muscles which are most frequently affected with spasm are the small muscles of the phalanges and those of the thumb. Spasm of the extensors may be temporarily produced, and the pen will be suddenly removed from the paper; this is, however, a very rare symptom, and may be due to spasm of the muscles which carry the hand across the paper. In the beginning of the disease isolated spasms are observed from time to time, and cause an obstacle to one or the other movements in writing. In general, the spasms and functional disturbances involve the different muscles of the fingers and thumb, and if the work is nevertheless persisted in they will also affect the muscles of the forearm and arm.

George M. Beard, in 1879, read an article before the medical society of this state, in which he gave his conclusions from the study of 125 cases of writers' cramp and allied affections, his inquiry extending to England, Germany and Anstralia. He states that no two cases are alike, there being fifteen or twenty other symptoms of this disease, and the recognition of these symptoms in the premonitory stage is of the highest moment for the reason that in the early stage the disease is curable. In some cases there is no cramp from first to last, and in all cases the cramp is accompanied by other symptoms, such as fatigue, dull ache and pain; nervous, irritable feeling; general nervousness; trembling and unsteadiness; cramp, spasm, twitching; rigidity; contraction of muscles, (in some cases the pen being hurled involuntarily across the room;) stiffness and tightness, powerlessness, numbness, tingling, neuralgia, burning, prickly feeling, soreness, throbbing and swollen feeling, electric sensations, tightly bound feeling of the wrist, coldness, disinclination to write and slowness in writing, itching, perspiration, dryness of the joints, swelling of the hand and wrist, actual paralysis, abnormal grasp of the fingers upon the penholder—a very common symptom,—tendency of the fingers, especially the middle one, to slip out of their position.

Reynolds speaks of its symptoms as follows :

‘‘A slowly developed difficulty in executing a particular movement. Usually the patient feels some undue weariness after long exertion; a stiffness of the fingers or an unsteadiness and uncertainty of movement, all of which disappear on abandoning the

exertion. In writing, the man feels that his pen does not do what he intended that it should; that his handwriting looks unnatural; that he has to hold his pen more tightly than before in order to keep it between his thumb and fingers; that it starts from its place and is often pushed from its place, often being pushed by his first finger over the thumb nail, and there is difficulty in restoring it to its place. The patient may not be able to write and yet feel no difficulty in fingering either the piano-forte or harp. One case is cited where a bricklayer could not handle his trowel. In some individuals there are abnormal sensations in the affected thumb. These may be noticed before any cramp appears. They may be increased by exertion, but do not entirely depend upon it. They are vague in character, such as a 'feeling of weight or tightness, numbness, or coldness and pain;' but more often a 'something not quite pain going up from the hand to the back.' In the majority of cases the special cramp exists by itself, but in a few it is associated with other disturbances of the nervous system."

Regarding the spastic form Ziemassen says that the disturbance is very slight in the first instance, and is only perceived when the effort has been long continued, and is then noticed as a sensation of extreme weariness. Finally, as soon as the pen is taken in hand the disturbance becomes more marked. Usually it affects the thumb and first finger, or there is a spasmodic flexion of the first three fingers so that they are pressed tightly upon the pen, which cannot then be moved further onward; or there may be symptoms of pronation or supination in the forearm so that the pen is raised from the paper and moved backwards and forwards in the most irregular manner.

The position which the patient often assumes in order to facilitate his writing, and the means he employs to prevent the occurrence of the spasms are often extreme. One will rest the wrist upon the paper, raising the elbow in the air, while another supports the arm upon the elbow and writes with the wrist raised free; another steadies the right hand with the left hand; another places the pen between the index and middle fingers or sticks the pen into a cork which he seizes with the whole hand. The writing consequently becomes altered in character because the writer has adopted a new method of using the pen, when writing is at all possible. The strokes are coarse, imperfect and unequal, and numerous irregularities and false strokes are observed. In the highest degrees of the affliction, after a few scarcely legible words, the whole writing becomes a mass of irregular strokes and curves,



whilst in other instances the letters are mere trembling, undulating or zig-zag strokes.

Ranney says that there is at first a peculiar sensation of distress or fatigue, which is accompanied sooner or later by a peculiar awkwardness in the finer movements, a sense of stiffness in the fingers, or a tendency to uncontrollable spasm of the fingers when these acts are persisted in. Gradually the fingers become more and more uncontrollable; the pain becomes more marked along the arm, even as high as the shoulder. After ceasing all attempts at writing the thumb and finger may feel relieved by rubbing them, and kneading the muscles for some time. There have been cases where people could draw for hours but could not write for one minute without distress.

In wasting palsy the loss of power is in direct proportion to the loss of nutrition; in writers' cramp it is the spasm which interferes with the particular movement that is required. This you will notice is a very characteristic difference.

The paralytic form is an extremely rare one, and the spasmodic form is the most common. The writing in its irregularity of form and force resembles the writing done in a jolting carriage, and about the same writing facility exists as in the movements of a dog when the clangorous tomato-can forms a caudal bric-a-brac. The afflicted writer is annoyed much as though a lawyer, wanting "what the witness said yesterday," was jogging the busy stenographer's elbow for audience, with a female witness under full swing. The lack of harmony may be illustrated by saying that it is as though in an army an order should proceed from the commander-in-chief for a simultaneous attack by all the divisions, but through the delay of some of the messengers the different bodies should receive the message in irregular succession; in an attack under such circumstances there would be the same inco-ordination and ill-success that is exhibited in the muscles of a writer's cramp patient when he attempts to write in obedience to the command of the will.

Rosenthal (with whom Eulenberg agrees) says that some patients suffer from neuralgic pains, painful points along the nerves of the arm, sensibility to pressure, and electrical stimulation of certain portions of the vertebral column. Electrical exploration reveals perversions of the normal mode of contractions in some forms of

writers' spasm. The contraction upon closure at the anode is produced in certain nerves more quickly and strongly than the contraction upon closure at the cathode, or the opening contractions at the negative pole appear earlier than at the positive pole. Anomalies may be detected in the primary excitability, and an increase of irritation from the action of the poles. He says that the most frequent cause of this disease is the excessive labor to which the small muscles of the fingers are subjected, and that the use of steel pens, on account of their rigidity and slight elasticity, perhaps favors the development of the cramp. But yet it is not the sole cause, since the disease sometimes appears in patients who have always made use of quills. In some cases of clonic writers' spasm, Remak has observed a chronic inflammation of the median nerve. This author also states that inflammatory irritation of purely sensory nerve fibres, such as the superficial branch of the radial nerve, may give rise to writers' cramp, and he obtained recovery in some of these patients by the local application of the constant current.

Whatever lowers the general tone of the nervous system may doubtless act as a predisposing cause, but no influence is met with so frequently as to deserve special mention except anxiety. It is also aggravated by constant thinking of the malady. Ranney says it is doubtful if injuries or exposure to cold ever induce this morbid state, and he regards causes of that character as mere coincidences, though Reynolds says that injury to the arm has been supposed in some cases to have originated the disease. Worry of mind and anxiety have been present in many cases before the outbreak of the symptoms.

Another writer says it is probable that the practice of thickening the down strokes in writing conduces to the occurrence of the affection, as it necessitates frequent increased pressure of the pen.

As to the paralytic form it may be remarked that there are no distinct spasms, but paralysis is more or less marked when the patient attempts to write. A gradually increasing and very decided sense of fatigue of the hand and forearm is experienced, which becomes stiff and no longer capable of being moved, the arm feeling as though glued to the table. Pain is felt in the whole arm, and if the act of writing is persisted in it extends to the shoulder and back. As soon as the pen is laid down the feeling

of exhaustion and weakness disappears to re-appear as soon as it is resumed. It is generally confined to the flexus, or to the extensors, or to the ulnar border of the forearm, and spreads from this as a centre. Occasionally particular muscles, especially the extensors of the fingers and thumb, present distinct paralytic debility. In rare cases the whole arm is affected and becomes less capable of discharging its ordinary duties.

With regard to the etiology or cause of the disease, great importance must be attached to predisposition. In the patients observed by Rosenthal abnormal conditions of sensibility of an hereditary nature were almost always present. They were of a very excitable or timid disposition, suffered more or less from nervous palpitation, from spasms in various parts of the body, or from hysterical symptoms. Among twenty-five cases of writers' cramp collected by Fritz, seven suffered from strabismus, choreic movements, spasm of deglutition, etc. The dynamic and traumatic influences, which have been regarded as exciting causes, constitute the exceptions. In some cases the tendency of the disease seems to be hereditary, two or three cases having been known in a single family. Dr. Poore speaks of three generations in a direct line being afflicted.

The irritation produced by manual effort proceeds from the sensory muscular fibres, says Fritz, and, in addition, from the nerves which are distributed to the articulations of the fingers and hand, and by reflex action causes a disturbance in the co-ordinating action of the muscles. Then follows a more and more marked disorder in the regular and associated play of the muscular actions, a spasmodic perturbation of their functions, and marked exhaustion of the co-ordinating apparatus, which only lapses into this condition of weakness from the over-excitement following frequent spasms. Writers' cramp may be artificially produced, as shown by experiments, by means of stimulation with the faradic current. If a strong current is applied to the first two interossei and to the thenar eminence simultaneously, while the hand is occupied in writing, a tonic spasm will be produced in the extensors of the thumb and index finger, especially during the formation of the fine lines. The letters become disordered, the pen rotates upon its axis and finally leaves the paper. If the current is brought to bear upon the dorsal surface of the forearm, over the

motor points of the extensor indicis and of the long extensor of the thumb, the pen will be drawn away, and if the current is continued for a certain length of time, the fingers are seized with tremor and persisting spasm. If two induction coils of different intensities are employed, spasms of unequal force in the hand can be produced.

Wood states that a form of local neurostheny (nervous debility) which is frequently associated with brain exhaustion is writers' cramp, and he has repeatedly seen it come on as the herald of a general breakdown; but under such circumstances the symptoms have usually not been those of typical writers' cramp; there being not so marked spasms as loss of power and distress in the arm on attempting to write.

Many theories have been advanced respecting the morbid anatomy of the disease. Althaus regards it as an exhaustion and abnormal irritability of the co-ordinating centres in the upper part of the cord. Some authors consider it an affection of the muscular system only, or of the terminal plates of the nerves. Roas claims that he can locate the disease by the electrical reaction of the affected muscles. He places it in the ganglionic spinal cells, when the reactions are diminished, and in the cortex when the reactions are intensified. Duchenne calls the disease "functional impotence"; Poore, "progressive functional ataxia"; Zuradelli, "irritable weakness," and Dady, "co-ordinate business neurosis." Reynolds says that the exact locality of the disease and the precise nature of the change which constitutes it, has not been demonstrated, its closest clinical affinities being with stammering, spasmodic wry neck and "muscular tic" of the face.

Whittaker states that the majority of the cases coming under his notice occurred in individuals of irritable, nervous temperament. *Per contra* Beard says that the disease occurs mostly in those who are of strong, and frequently of very strong constitutions, and is quite rare in the nervous and delicate, and when occurring in the latter class it more easily relieved and cured than in the case of the strong. It has occurred in persons who had had scarcely any other nervous disease; who had never known what it was to consult medical aid for any chronic affection whatever, and who on that account were amazed that they broke down in this special direction.

It is far less likely to occur, it is said, in those who do original work, as authors, journalists and composers, than in those who do routine work, as clerks, book-keepers, copyists, etc., for the reason that the first named consume time in thinking as they write and thus they rest the nerves and muscles of the hand, while the latter class have little or no thinking to do and write constantly and uninterruptedly, and oftentimes at an extremely high speed. In some cases writers' cramp has followed a single task of long copying. Dana calculates that in longhand writing in a working day of eight hours there would be about 245,000 muscular contractions, and of course when the speed of the contractions is increased, as in shorthand writing, it is easy to understand how the nerve-cells may become exhausted or refuse to work together harmoniously.

Reynolds says the general health of some of the most typical cases had been excellent, and the physical strength equal to and often beyond the average. In a few individuals there was weakness and "nervous temperament" and some "anaemia" that impaired the digestion and nutrition, but in none had there been witnessed any modification which was not consistent with and frequently encountered in other diseases.

Fagge says those afflicted with this disease are said to sleep badly and to be generally ill-nourished, and with soft, flabby muscles. Dr. Poore attaches some importance to the thin, brittle state of the nails he had often noticed.

No cases have been met with in which the symptoms appeared before the age of thirty. (This statement will afford gratification to the fair sex, doubtless.) The average age in cases collected and observed by Lewis was twenty-seven years; by Reynolds over thirty; by Hammond over forty, and by Dana a little over thirty, and it is unlikely that any woman will ever admit she has the slightest symptom. It is met with most frequently in men; much more rarely in women, and this is apparently the result of the unequal amount of writing required of the two sexes. Piano-forte players' spasm occurs more frequently in women, and particularly in those who belong to the "nervous families." While it is most frequently observed in writers, secretaries, clerks, merchants and savants, it often occurs in those who write but little, and who think they have accomplished wonders when they have subscribed

their name to a half-score of business letters. Mention is made of a boy of fifteen whose education seemed to have been rather neglected than otherwise; also of a lady of fashion who had at most to write a few letters and notes to friends and relatives. Thus there are reasons, says one author, for doubting the correctness of the statement that the disease is caused by excessive exertion, for many cases occur in which there has been no excessive strain upon the muscles in the performance of special acts. We know, of course, that thousands of individuals write, work, and play musical instruments to the highest degree possible, without suffering the slightest inconvenience of the kind under consideration. It may be convenient, but it is not scientific, to refer this form of cramp to over-exertion of a special kind.

Gowers (England) says that among clerks who suffer, lawyers constitute an undue proportion, due no doubt to the cramped style in which they commonly write. On the other hand, it is technically unknown among those who write more and under higher pressure than any other class, *i. e.*, shorthand writers. The speed required and the style needed for forming shorthand characters compels a very free style of writing, generally from the shoulder, and this is also adopted by them in long-hand writing, and the result is that they have an almost complete immunity from the disease. Gowers has seen but one case in a stenographer, and that was not quite a pure case, and at the shorthand congress in London he said he could not hear of any one who had ever known a case in the practice of the stenographic profession. Beard (American) speaks of stenographers who write out in full the reports they take of long discourses as being a class that readily furnishes candidates for the disease. Upon these opposed English and American authorities some western reporter will be sure to base an assumption that English reporters do not or cannot report as fast as their American brethren.

Contrary to the popular idea that if the right hand be disabled by this disease the left hand may be resorted to with immunity, the medical authorities are practically a unit, for they say that though the patient has learned to write with the left hand and it be overtaxed the spasm not infrequently extends to that hand also,—the condition tends to become bilateral—and the writer's pleasure in his new acquisition is speedily turned to disappointment.

When the writer turns to left hand writing its writing power is limited more rapidly than was that of the right hand. Myers cites a case where the patient changed to the left hand and was affected in four weeks in like manner as in the right hand.

Contrary to most authorities Gowers says that when sensory symptoms are prominent the left hand is especially apt to suffer early if used. The invasion of the left hand is not invariable. Gowers notes a case where the left hand did good work for twelve years and showed no involvement, although the affliction continued unchanged in the right hand. If the cases of neuralgic type be excluded the chances are nearly equal whether the left hand will suffer or not. If perfect rest is given the right hand, either by abstinence from writing or by the exclusive use of the left hand, the symptoms may be slightly lessened and ultimately pass away so that writing may be resumed without any return of the affection. The most typical case Gowers knew of used the left hand two years, and then for thirty years used the right hand without recurrence of the disease. In some cases, even after rest, it returns while in others rest fails to effect much improvement.

Hammond says that out of eleven cases three attempted to write with the left hand, but the spasm soon appeared in it upon such attempt. All these patients resorted to various expedients to obviate the spasms under the idea that they were produced by metallic pens carrying off the electricity from the arm. Several for a time made use of quills, or hard-rubber pens, and for a time relief was obtained, but the paroxysms soon became as bad as ever. Others used very thick pen-holders, and this experiment was for a time successful. In the end, however, all such efforts to prevent the spasm proved futile. In two cases there were other symptoms indicative of disorder of the central system, consisting of headache, pain in the back, and occasional tremors of the limbs.

Out of eighteen cases Poore reports that three failed utterly, six were partially successful, and nine were completely successful. In the case of the other six the disease either appeared on the left hand, or showed a tendency to appear there.

Now let us consider the theory, for it is only theory, as to the nature of this difficulty. Three chief theories are held regarding it.

First, that it is essentially a local disease; that a weakness of

some muscles permits the over-action of their antagonists, which increases to spasm. This theory has been ably advocated by Poore.

Second, the spasm is ascribed to reflex action, the result of the stimulation of the sensory nerves in the act of writing.

Third, and the one most held to by writers upon the subject, regards the affection as primarily and essentially central—the result of deranged action in the centres concerned in the act of writing. The first two theories seem inadequate by themselves to explain the symptoms.

In regard to the essential nature of writers' spasm there is still much obscurity since pathological anatomy has been able to add but little to our knowledge, and *post-mortem* examination nothing, and we are compelled to rely entirely on hypothesis. This reminds me of a lawyer I once heard say, in addressing a jury, that the true state of affairs in the case under discussion would "never be revealed until a *post-mortem* examination *after* death."

Hamilton and Poore do not think the disease connected with any central change, but is peripheral, while Solly and Smith think that there is degeneration of the motor cells in the upper part of the cord.

The weight of authority is in favor of a central change, and that it is not a peripheral (or outside the central organ) disorder. The strongest argument adduced that it is intimately connected with a disordered condition of the nerve centres is the fact that the left hand is so frequently afflicted when resorted to.

Fraser contends that "The affection is peripheral in origin, of the nature of irritation of the terminal fibres of sensory nerves, secondary and central changes being inevitable in the course of time."

It is very generally believed that there is debility or paralysis of certain muscles and secondary spasm of their antagonists—a cause which does not seem by some authors to be correct for the majority of cases. They say it is probable that there is a coincident disease in the central reflex apparatus. Disturbances in the motor paths (peripheral or central), or in the muscles themselves, are very seldom the cause of writers' cramp. In the present state of our knowledge we are justified in placing the seat of the cause in the central nervous system, although it is impossible to locate it



with precision as to whether it be in the gray substance of the cervical portion of the spinal cord, or in the cerebral peduncles, or in the gray substance of the brain.

At the risk of being prosy let me elaborate the idea a little. The central situation of these disorders of co-ordination only extends over a small space, as a rule, for the inco-ordination rarely affects other groups of movements. Singular as it may seem, in true writers' cramp the individual may be "well" in all respects but one. A particular kind of movement is interfered with by the occurrence of irregular and spasmodic instead of regular and co-ordinated contractions. It must be remembered that the malady is special. The muscles which cannot be made to write can almost invariably be controlled so as to fasten the most tiresome button, carve the toughest of turkeys, or pull a heavy boat.

Solly says that the paralyzed scribbler, although he cannot write, can amuse himself in his garden, can shoot like a christian, and in fact can do almost anything he likes except earn his daily bread as a scribbler.

Hammond thinks a consideration of its mode of origin and symptoms tends to show that it is an affliction of the motor nerve-cells, similar in several respects to paralysis agitans, and says it occurs among those who are required by long employment to perform delicate, complex or uniform actions with the fingers for many hours a day. Examples of cerebral exhaustion by the predominance of one idea or a series of ideas for a long time are often witnessed. The author conceives it to be the result of similar action on the spinal motor cells. Writers' spasm is analogous to the disorders of inco-ordination of speech which constitute stuttering, and we may term the former affection stuttering of the hand, or of writing. Nevertheless in writers' cramp the symmetrical portion of the nerve-centres, on the opposite side, shows a tendency to become involved, for the left hand may soon become affected if used.

Beard thinks that it simply develops in the left hand when that hand is used, for the same reason that it affects the right hand, and that the theory that it is the result of lesion, or disturbance of the special co-ordinating centres in the brain, to be not sustained by any properly understood fact. He says the disease is primarily a peripheral and local disease of the nerves and muscles; secondarily,

but rarely, it becomes central and general, or it may result from various central lesions and may affect any point between the extreme peripheral and the centre.

Solly, in a course of very interesting and thoughtful lectures, reported in the *London Lancet*, gives it as his opinion that the lesion is to be found in the spinal cord, and that the disease consists of a granular disintegration of the cervical cord. Reynolds considers the whole trouble to be due to "perverted nutrition of the parts themselves."

Zuradelli is of the opinion that these over-movements "are not true spasms, but are due to paralysis of one or the other of the muscles used in writing, in consequence of which the antagonizing muscles get the mastery and occasion a spurious cramp." Haupt adopts Zuradelli's view that it depends primarily on the paralysis of certain muscles used in writing and that the spasms of their antagonists are secondary.

Summing up the matter Erb says, "We are still very much in the dark with regard to the real nature of this form of disease. It is probably due to a localized, irritable weakness of certain parts of the nervous system caused by over-taxation. This is situated mainly in the central nervous system, though we are ignorant as to its location in the spinal cord or vertex of the brain."

Rosenthal says the fact that the affection occurs chiefly in those who write by means of small muscles is quite compatible with the theory that the disease is essentially central. The difference in writing by small or large muscles is that in the one case there is extreme activity of comparatively few cells, and in the other case there is a slight activity of many cells.

As I have observed, there is no direct evidence at present as to the part of the nervous system in which the primary derangement occurs. That the action of the cells of the spinal cord must be disordered seems certain, since it is through them that spasm is produced and pain perceived. As to a more exact localization of the lesion we must leave it for the present *res non adjudicata*.

Rosenthal says writers' cramp may be mistaken for analogous conditions which have been produced by lesions of the brain and spinal cord. In unilateral ataxia similar phenomena may appear among the first symptoms of the disease. But these phenomena are almost always combined with sensory disturbances (numbness,

anæsthesia, neuralgia) in the fingers and arm, also in other parts of the body, and even the lower limbs. In addition, temporary muscular spasms, sexual excitement, and a marked increase in the galvanic reaction, are also observed. Zuradelli notes cases of writers' cramp attended with hyperæsthesia or anæsthesia, loss of sensibility to contact, of pain, or of muscular sensibility. These symptoms must be referred to a central cause, as they are not noticed in ordinary cases.

In cerebral diseases the associated movements of the fingers or hands may be disturbed by spasms and paresis, simulating writers' cramp. But we will then find uncertainty and weakness, even in performing coarse movements, combined with sensory disturbances and paresis in the lower extremities on the same side, and later in the territory of the cranial nerves. The trembling movements which characterize certain forms of writers' cramp are distinguished from other forms of tremor by the fact that the latter are also manifested in movements which do not require co-ordinated action, and that they pursue a much more continuous course.

In hysteria, progressive muscular atrophy, and lead paralysis, symptomatic writers' cramp may occur after exertion, but the other characteristic signs will clear up the nature of the disease.

The disease is one that is readily imagined.\* Many persons who write much experience at times some discomfort in the hand after writing, and when such discomfort is one of the symptoms of writers' cramp they are apt to fancy that they are subjects of the disease. In most cases of fancied disease when the patient is reassured the discomfort quickly ceases to be noticed.

This disease, like all nervous diseases in this country, diminishes in frequency as we go south. The more acute the disease, and the more evidently peripheral and neuritic its origin, the better the progress.

The occurrence of the disease is influenced less by the amount than by the manner of writing. The mode in which the pen is held is comparatively unimportant; it is the mode in which the pen is moved that chiefly determines the occurrence of the disease. The worst mode of writing is with the little finger as a point of

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\*Illustrative of this I may state that one of the listeners to the reading of this paper told me that he actually felt in the hand and arm several of the sensations described during their recital.

support. The better way is to write with the middle of the forearm, the wrist moving with the hand. The best mode is to write from the upper arm and shoulder, with no fixation of the arm; the forearm, wrist and little finger resting on the table so as to take off some of the weight of the limb from the shoulder muscles. In this way the pen is held very lightly, and scarcely any of the movement is effected by the small muscles of the hand. The hand should grasp the pen lightly and move it as a whole. The fingers scarcely alter their position except when a stroke is carried far above or below the line. No style can be considered free unless it is easy to write a whole line of a cap sheet. If all persons wrote from the shoulder writers' cramp would practically cease. The mode of writing, however, is a matter of education, and the prevention of the disease rests with one's early teachers rather than with subsequent doctors. It is apparently many times induced by using the fingers in a constrained position. In one case a patient who had been in the habit of writing with the hand supported by the little finger cured himself, by allowing the whole hand to rest upon the desk or table.

It is said that men who write a scrawling, illegible hand never have writers' cramp. It is the penalty of writing plainly and carefully. Like prevents like, and those who always write as though they have writers' cramp seldom have it. The reason that those who write a beautiful hand are more liable to the affection than poor writers is chiefly that the latter acquire no position in which they can over-use their writing muscles.

Writing with a pencil is not as apt to bring on nervous trouble as writing with a pen, from the fact that no particular angle is required to be maintained between the point and the paper. In some cases the patient can write with a pencil without difficulty, partly because he can press more firmly on the pencil and thus steady the hand. Mr. Munson in a recent article calls attention to the fact that three New York city court reporters (to whom I shall refer hereafter) afflicted with writers' cramp each used a pencil, and that about one-half of the city court men use a pencil, from which he draws the deduction that the malady selects most of its victims from pencil note-takers. He claims that it is because of the stiff, unyielding nature of a pencil, and he thinks that it should be called "pen-

cil" and not "pen paralysis." The medical authorities disagree with him, is the only comment I care to offer.

At this point the meeting adjourned.

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## SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

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**T**HE CONVENTION resumed its session at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Mr. McLaughlin in the chair.

MR. RODGERS resumed the reading of his paper.

### DURATION, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

In the treatment of writers' cramp and allied affections discontinuance of acts which occasion the spasm is indispensable, and unless rest can be secured it is useless for any physician to undertake the treatment. The abstinence from writing should be absolute during at least six months. A month's abstinence from writing at the onset will do more than a year's rest if the disease has continued six months. If rest be resorted to early a recovery may be hoped for. If not, as in a case where the livelihood of the patient depends upon writing, the habit of using the pen with the the left hand may be acquired. This is often only a temporary resource, as the affection is liable to appear in the left hand after more or less use. Changing the size of the pen-holder, and adopting contrivances to change the action of muscles which are co-ordinated in writing, will sometimes enable writers to continue their occupation. Hammond and Poore hold it to be no longer an incurable disease. That in the early and forming stage especially it responds to treatment quickly, and in many cases permanently, and can be treated as satisfactorily as almost any other form of nervous disorder, and even when the cramp or spasms have appeared it may be entirely cured. In later stages, after the malady has existed for years, it becomes hopeless even though the subject abandon his occupation. Poore had seen cases afflicted for over twenty-five years. Of eleven cases mentioned by Hammond seven were incurable, having lasted several years and resisting all means

of cure, even long rest. Of the remainder one was in process of cure by his own expedient of changing the position of the hand in writing, and the other three were successfully treated.

The authorities are substantially agreed as to the matter of rest if upon no other point. They say that the course of writers' cramp is very chronic, and the duration indefinite, and that it is more often than is supposed the precursor of more serious ailments of the nervous system. If so, then no case is without importance, and its management should include instructions as to the manner of life and regime to avoid future complications.

While the disease when well developed is one in which the prognosis is always uncertain, and very often unfavorable, yet a case is mentioned of a clerk who wrote ten hours a day for twenty years, and after the affection had developed for twelve months underwent complete restoration.

It is often very difficult to determine with precision the particular muscles which are affected, and the nature of the disturbance. Says one writer :

"The prognosis is unfavorable. In all cases it is at least doubtful, and in the majority decidedly unfavorable. Complete recovery is very rare. Considerable improvement, or arrest at a certain point, is quite frequent. In a large number of cases treatment proves of no value, the disease making steady progress and at length rendering the writing impossible. Of course the cases in which when the practice of writing is discontinued the spasm ceases cannot be included in those that are benefited by treatment. The course of all these forms of disease is very nearly the same. They commence very gradually, and after a time increase more and more rapidly. The patient is rendered worse by bodily or mental exertion, or by strong emotions, whilst rest and discontinuance of the particular occupation which led to the spasm, and general tonic strengthening measures, improve the condition. Arrest of the progress of the disease is more common, and is relatively favorable."

Of twenty-four cases mentioned by Hamilton, sixteen were absolutely cured, and so continued as long as they refrained from work; two were improved, but upon resuming their calling relapsed, while the remainder were still under treatment. All were males and over forty years of age.

Rosenthal says :

"The prognosis in spasm of the hand with inco-ordination is so much the more unfavorable the more severe and extensive the disease has become. The light forms which would sometimes oc-

cur with symptoms of anæmia, dyspepsia, and after prolonged exertion, may be arrested by methodical tonic treatment and by abstinence from all manual occupations which demand considerable effort. If the necessary measures be adopted even more advanced forms may remain stationary for several years, or may, perhaps, present an appreciable degree of improvement, although this is soon lost if these precautions are dispensed with. Some of these cases are, perhaps, susceptible of recovery under appropriate treatment and continuous care. Severe and extensive forms may improve somewhat, but offer no hope of recovery. Whatever the plan of treatment adopted, it is absolutely necessary that the patient abstain completely, for at least six months or a year, from the work in which he has been previously engaged, and it can only be resumed slowly and gradually. It is well to premise the return to work by carefully graduated gymnastics of the fingers and hands, and by rhythmical exercises of the brachial muscles."

Beard & Rockwell's Surgery says that the prognosis in the early stages is sometimes favorable for a perfect cure. Advanced stages of long standing are usually rebellious, but often these may be relieved. *Rest from occupation is almost imperative.* In some cases, and especially in the early stages, neurosthenia, (abnormal excitement of the nerve centres), or numbness, is the leading if not the only symptom. This may appear long before the cramp.

Bartholow says that as soon as the symptoms of writers' cramp become manifest writing should be relinquished immediately, and the muscles be given rest for several months. Rest may remove all the symptoms, and subsequent moderation in the amount of writing and giving sufficient intervals of rest will entirely obviate the tendency to cramp or paresis. Much attention should be given to the position of the fingers and the amount of effort necessary in performing writing. A large penholder, and an easy, unembarrassed manner of grasping the pen, are of much importance. When the case is complete and writing becomes impossible a cure is not to be hoped for, but such amelioration may be effected as to permit a very little daily use of the hand.

Contrary to every other author Poore says that rest alone, even in abstinence for many months from writing, will not cure the nerves, and that the best results he ever had were where the patient kept right along in occupation, although avoiding excessive work, with the use of mechanical contrivances. He says that some successfully use a large penholder with a sponge fastened to it so as to relieve the pressure of the fingers, and that holding the pen between the different fingers is a relief. The use of quills and very

flexible pens so as to run easily is recommended. Some pens of German manufacture are made with this special object in view. *The use of a lead pencil* is noted as a great relief, and yet careless writers in the magazines assume to tell us that it is just what we should not do. The mica pen and the Esterbrook stub pen are worthy of trial. Frequent changing of the pen and its holder, and style of pen so as to change the mode of action of the muscle, is commended. Dipping the pen for ink is usually regarded as a nuisance, but it doubtless saves some from writers' cramp. Changing the position of the body in writing is beneficial. These methods of relief are recommended to those who are beginning to have the symptoms of the disease. It is a mistake to always try to point the pen toward the right shoulder. Avoid faulty and painful methods of writing, and study easy and natural methods. A person who writes a cramped, stiff style is a fair subject for attack.

Reynolds says cases existing only a short time may confidently be expected to be relieved provided rest can be given. There is scarcely any malady which has more obstinately resisted all attempts, well directed and ill directed, which have been made for its cure. With regard to the extension of the disease into other regions of the nervous system some caution is required in stating the general prognosis of such cases, but in a vast majority it may be confidently expected that no such extension will occur.

Ziemssen says it is obvious that inconvenient tables and desks, a bad position in writing, and especially hard and pointed steel pens, must favor the demands made upon the functional activity of the muscles and nerves employed in writing. In the early stage absolute rest may do much. In a later stage it can accomplish nothing. This writer tried every form of general and nerve tonic, of sedative and of local application, without success. He found injections of morphine, atropine and arsenic incompetent.

Writers' cramp was formerly treated with narcotics, tonics, stimulants, nervines and blisters, but the complete inefficacy of these measures has long been recognized. Strychnine, which has been recently employed by some physicians, is too dangerous, even in small doses, to be employed as a mere adjutant. Surgical treatment (subcutaneous muscular section) was successful in a case reported by Stromeyer, in which the spasm was limited to the long flexor of the thumb. In other cases, however, which were oper-



ated upon by Dieffenbach and Langenbeck, it produced no benefit or only temporary relief.

Tuppart obtained some relief from dividing the tendons of the affected muscles, and recommends the early and constant employment of a bandage to the wrist. The writers generally agree that neither tenotomy, or division of tendons or muscles, nor neurectasy, or nerve stretching, is admissible, but some claim that when a cure cannot be effected well-devised prothetic or artificial apparatus will enable the patient to write, while others say it is worse than useless as it only 'staves off the impending disability, while the malady is really getting worse, and thus increases the difficulty of treatment.' That 'mechanical contrivances may render occasional writing possible, but they do not affect the disease, and persistence in their use has been followed by an extension of the malady to the muscles of the forearm and arm.'

Regarding artificial aids, I have reported many thousands of pages aided by a solid rubber ball about one and one-half inches in diameter held by the thumb in the palm of the hand, the fingers being distended, a pencil being inserted in the ball. I supposed that I was the original adapter of this device, the idea being evolved from first trying an oblong shaped potato with a pencil inserted in one end, but I find one of Robins' patients "derived much benefit by alternating with the ordinary penholder a solid rubber ball, perforated at about one-third of its circumference, and the penholder thrust through, the ball thus being held in the hand and the penholder passed up between the first and second fingers."

At a meeting of the medical society of Pennsylvania, in 1888, Dr. Lee made some remarks upon the affection, insisting that a distinction should be made between the spastic and paretic forms, and also exhibited certain mechanical devices for its relief, one of which consisted of a ball to be held in the hand, and another of a bracelet devised by Von Nussbaum, to either of which the pen was to be attached. The latter was especially suited to cases of the cramp-like form since its action was to call the extensor muscles into play, those being the muscles really at fault.

*The Writer* recommends never writing more than hour with the same size penholder, and that a small rubber ball be held while writing. Also, to learn to use the left hand in writing longhand; that the pen should be grasped lightly. It suggests using a hand-

rest, made by glueing a strip of velvet to stiff card-board, and resting the hand upon it while writing, the idea being that "the electricity generated by the passage of the hand over the velvet will prevent or cure the disease." This latter suggestion is valuable as illustrating what nonsense can be evolved from surcharged brain.

Some patients are benefited by wearing a rubber band around the forearm; others by holding the pen in an unusual way, and a few by employing a cork pen-holder, sometimes over an inch in diameter. Blister of the actual cautery over the median nerve is of service in many cases, and must be kept up for some weeks. Static sparks on the cervical spinal segments, and applied to the affected forearm and hand, often give immediate relief. Erb says many are relieved by applying a narrow strip or bandage of plaster around the wrist. This cannot be expected to do any good where the only muscles affected are the little muscles of the thumb and fingers.

Among the hygienic devices for relief and cure Poore mentions the ring penholder to relieve the thumb and fingers. Its inventor was substantially cured by its use of a bad form of writers' cramp. He highly commends the typewriter, which he thinks destined to be of great practical service to cramp sufferers, as well as to those who are made generally nervous and locally tired by the mechanical labor of writing. Thurber's kaligraph, now almost forgotten, was an ingenious contrivance for this difficulty, but it is now superseded by other instruments. Duchenne modified an apparatus invented by Cazenave. Charcot and Langenbeck also produced an apparatus. The French have been specially prolific in originating these instruments.

Gross's Surgery shows, at figures 789, 790 and 791, appliances that are beneficial, the general principle being to obviate the necessity of rigid contraction of the muscles.

George Tiemann & Co., 107 Park Row, New York, have Velpéau's and Mathieu's apparatus, the latter being the somewhat simpler apparatus, and answering well in slight cases. The mechanical contrivances invented by Gerdy, Cazenave, and others, do not produce any permanent advantage. Massage is followed by better results. Showering the arm in hot and cold water alternately and using friction, percussion of the affected muscles, mas-

sage (Wolff's method) after the water application, are often beneficial.

Injection of atropine is recommended by Dr. Leszynsky, beginning with one one-hundred and twentieth grains and gradually increasing the dose from day to day until the desired effect is produced or tolerance is established. It should be injected into the substance of the muscle, where it is slowly absorbed.

Hamilton recommends the ether spray apparatus.

Bromide of potassium is said to be sometimes beneficial by removing the depression and irritability. Strychnia is often injurious. Runge says nitrate of strychnia hypodermically injected deserves trial.

Dr. Vance, of Ohio, in 1874, published a monograph on writers' cramp. He derived great advantage from the hypodermic use of atropia, one-sixtieth grains, combined with rest to the part. The best place to inject the remedy is beneath the skin in the loose cellular tissue over the pronator muscles of the forearm. Either extremity can be used, but when the treatment is to be continued for a length of time it is better to inject in each arm alternately. The hypodermic syringe should be small, and armed with a gold-pointed needle. The solution of atropia should be concentrated so that but a small amount of liquid need be injected at a time, the dose being one minim administered about three times a week, and when attention is paid to the cleanliness of the needle and the due concentration and freshness of the solution no danger of producing abscesses need be feared if the operation is performed with a reasonable degree of dexterity.

Runge has called attention to some causes of local irritation which produce these cramps. In one case he found a chronic periostitis at the external condyle of the humerus. This is extremely sensitive to pressure and pressure evoked spasmodic contractions of the extensor muscles, originating there, of precisely the same character as those suffered from when the patient persisted in writing. The actual cautery was applied over the inflamed spot; this with six weeks of entire rest cured the patient, who was well twelve months afterwards. In the second case an ingrowing nail of the right thumb of the patient was the original cause of the cramps, for it compelled the patient to alter the mechanism or position of his hand in writing. When this healed

and the matrix of the nail was no longer tender the cramps ceased and the patient was well,

Methodical hydro-therapeutics (frictions, packs of short duration, followed by half baths, dorsal affusions, gentle douches to the lumbar region and neck,) a prolonged trip to the country, and sea baths, have a favorable influence in counteracting the nervous excitability of patients, and in moderating spasms, according to Rosenthal. In the majority of severe cases it is useless to dally with mild remedies or ordinary tonics. Some years ago, in the *New York Sun*, the following remedy was published: Tincture of capsicum four ounces; spirits of turpentine one ounce; mix and apply to the hand and wrist once or twice a day so as to keep up a glow on the surface. If the turpentine is too irritating diminish the quantity or omit it altogether. W. W. Keyser says he was almost driven to giving up writing but began to use the above and now writes almost as freely as ever. I do not think it is of any benefit, having tried it, except as the burning sensation may do away with some false fancy. Of course we know that turpentine is good for rheumatism, and so far it may be of benefit.

Notwithstanding the many things referred to there are but two that seem to attract special attention from the medical profession, viz.: electricity and massage.

Julius Wolff's method of treating writers' cramp, which according to the testimony of Vigouroux, and others, has been strikingly successful, consists of a carefully graduated series of gymnastic exercises for the affected muscles, of passive motion, applied with due modern and vigorous massage. Wolff was a Frankfort German and not a physician. By invitation he came to London, where he had such success with his massage process of rubbing, kneading, stretching, and beating the fingers, as to induce DeWatteville to declare against the "central origin" idea of the disturbants. He had 277 cases of which 157 were cured, 23 improved, and 98 unimproved.

Poore recommends massage, with friction, pinching and pounding the skin, and passive movements of the joints, stating that Dr. Douglas Graham, of Boston, used this method with very encouraging success. The whole arm should be treated. He also recommends the use of dry heat and dry cold by rubber bags of hot water and ice used alternately; also the actual cautery applied to

the upper portion of the spine along the course of the affected nerves and muscles. He extends an analysis of 98 cases, making with 75 cases previously reported, a total of 168 cases, arranged in three groups: (1) Paralytic, 18; 10 cerebral. (2) Degenerative, 14. (3) Neuro-muscular, 66. He was of the opinion that a not uncommon cause of impaired writing power was to be found in lesions causing slight discs of a hemiplegic type. One-quarter of the 168 cases were referred to slight central changes in the brain or cord. Nerve-tenderness occurred in 50 out of 98 cases, and in most of these it was the median nerve which was tender. Change in muscular irritability occurred 61 times in 95 cases. Tremor occurred in more than half of the cases. Many cases were complicated by slight rheumatism of some of the joints. Good results were obtained from massage and other methods of improving the nutrition of the affected parts.

Gowers says that gymnastic exercises are often distinctly useful, like flexion and extension movements of the fingers and hand, for which with advantage a "dumb piano" may be used. Rubbing and kneading often give considerable relief to discomfort and the tendency to spasm is lessened. In the cases he has known treated in this manner the symptoms have not been appreciably influenced.

I believe that the stenographer should pay particular attention to regular and systematic exercises, of the arm especially, not forgetting the fingers. There are but about eighteen muscles in the forearm, and the exercise of them is simple. I advise those interested to procure Prof. Dowd's book on Physical Culture, (No. 9 East 14th Street, N. Y.,) in which will be found a fund of useful hints upon the subject of scientific and practical physical culture.

Post's Manual of Massage, (1891,) says, "Massage of the arm and hand has been used in writers' cramp. The treatment is applied twice daily, and continued for from two to four weeks. Passive, restive and active movements are combined with the massage."

Electricity is undoubtedly the most important and effective of the direct therapeutic agents in these affections, and excellent results may be obtained from its use, especially in recent and slight cases. In chronic cases it is useless, though its failure may in some instances be attributed to the employment of the wrong meth-

ods. The number of recoveries always remains very small compared with those cases which are merely improved.

The accordant in opinion is that it is valuable in the following order : Galvanic, static and faradic. The interrupted current appears to have little if any effect, and is only useful in cases of local anæsthesia, of hyperæsthesia, or of paralysis of particular muscles. The purely spastic forms so far from being improved are sometimes made worse by the application of faradic electricity. The galvanic current, on the other hand, much more frequently gives favorable results on account of its slighter tension. There is no superiority of any one method in applying it, for when good effects have followed the same results are obtained from all modes of applying it to the arm and neck. It should be applied three to six times a week for several months.

Duchenne and Meyer have seen good effects from galvanization of the affected muscles. A stable current of moderate intensity is passed through the upper part of the vertebral column or from the spine to the brachial plexus, and then to the affected nerves and muscles, each sitting lasting from three to five minutes. In some cases Rosenthal obtained great benefit by combining galvanization with a few sittings of localized faradization to the paretic muscles, or with mild hydro-therapeutic measures.

Beard & Rockwell's work says that the treatment should be both central and peripheral. Galvanism of the upper portion of the cord, of the median and radial nerves, spinal cord, plexus and nerve currents; faradization of the affected muscles and of their antagonists may be tried, and, when neurosthenia exists, the wire-brush. It is added that the disease is a spasmodic one, and that the general law obtains that when recent it readily yields to electrical treatment, but when long standing it is easily palliated, cured with difficulty, and is prone to relapse.

Bartholow says a current from ten to fifteen of "Siemens & Halske" ought to be passed daily for a few minutes through the affected muscles. If spasm and fatigue is the condition of the muscles the stable current is to be preferred; if the muscles are weak the labile current should be used. The forearm, the muscles of the thumb, and the interossei, should be gently rubbed and kneaded for a few minutes previously to the application of electricity. The state of the muscles in this ailment varies in

different cases; some conditions are local and some are muscular, while others are nervous. A small proportion have their origin in intercranial lesions—that is, changes in the motor and co-ordinating centres. Treated in accordance with the principles laid down by this author recent cases may be cured or ameliorated. If the general health is depressed good effects, he claims, are obtained from strychnia, but this agent does harm if the nervous system is excited and the circulation active. The phosphates, quinia, or codliver oil should be prescribed if the health is poor.

Dr. Poore derived better results from galvanism than from any other source. He says, "For genuine writers' cramp dependent upon chronic fatigue I have found the refreshing effects of the galvanic current of the greatest possible service, and I have had four extreme cases of patients who had exhausted all the usual remedies, and had suffered for very lengthy periods, in whom rest and the use of the galvanic current, combined with a rhythmical exercise of the affected muscles, was productive of rapid and marked amelioration of the objective and subjective symptoms."

The constant galvanic current proved the most effectual agent in Hammond's hands. He applied it to the sympathetic nerve, the spinal cord in its upper part, and to all the muscles and nerves of the upper extremity. An half hour three times a week, with a current of considerable intensity, (40 cells,) is sufficient. Faradization, in his experience, is more productive of harm than benefit. With the galvanism he has administered a combination of phosphide of zinc and extract nux vomica, in pills, (formula given,) three times a day.

Miller speaks of the successful use of electricity in the Leavenworth *Med. Journal* for 1868-9.

Meyer seems, from his cases, to have successfully applied electricity. Ziemssen has seen no good result from galvanism, but in many cases perfect rest he states has removed the symptoms, and that it alone seems worthy of being regarded as a means of cure. He says the behavior of the affected muscles has been the subject of much investigation, and the results have been almost always negative; that is to say, the muscles have reacted normally, and electricity therefore offers no assistance as regards either the diagnosis or the prognosis of the disease.

Tibbitts says that faradization of the antagonists of the contract-

ing muscles may be used to advantage, especially when conjoined with appropriate gymnastic exercises of the affected muscles alternating with apparatus or perfect rest to them.

Gowers' experience has led him to assign a low position to electricity in the treatment of the spasmodic form. If the patient continues writing he says it has not the slightest influence upon the disease.

Imlach applied the galvanic current by an electric desk so constructed that when the patient wrote certain muscles were alternately galvanized. While this might be of service in some cases it is too complicated for general use. He reports but one case benefitted by its use.

After dealing with the melancholy outlook for the sufferer it is pleasing to turn to the brighter side. I addressed a letter of inquiry to each of the three court reporters mentioned by Mr. Munson. One of them says he was exceedingly afflicted for over a year, so much so as to be unable to pass a cup of tea to his lips, yet never lost a day from his official duties. He availed himself of electricity, (galvanic,) mud baths, and mother tincture of gelsemium, (about two drops in a half ounce of soft water taken before meals,) until vacation, when he took a series of sulphur baths at Richfield Spa. This was two years ago, and he states that he now is, and has been for two years, as well as ever, having done as much hard work in the past year as ever. He emphatically condemns the use of all spirituous or malt liquors, in which he is sustained by several others similarly affected, and recommends rest, out-door exercise and cold bathing.

Mr. Andrew Devine, congressional reporter, recommended the tincture referred to, and I have myself found it beneficial. As it is a poison a physician should be consulted as to the proper amount. Hertzka reports a case of pianists' cramp cured in six weeks by the use of eight drops of it three times a day.

The second gentleman stated that about eighteen months ago he was attacked quite suddenly in the midst of reporting a case with complete loss of power in the finger muscles, but without cramp. A specialist ordered complete rest and the use of electricity. A twenty-cell battery was used continuously, and writing suspended till about three months ago. He then found that the fingers grew stronger by the use of them for an hour or two at a time. While



not as strong as before he hopes to fully recover. At present he is not doing anything for the trouble. He advises complete rest and the use of electricity, and does not consider the expenditure of money upon physicians of any avail.

The third gentleman gave his experience as follows :

"It came on very suddenly during a 'daily copy' case which entailed many hours of very hard work, and I attributed the peculiar feeling to over-exertion and a general tax upon the system, loss of sleep, irregular meals, indigestion consequent upon such a state of things, and a general breaking down of the nervous system through strain. It was at the end of the season which had been a particularly hard one. The symptoms were, first, a sense of suffocation, rush of blood to the head, dizziness, and with it a trembling of the hand and forearm, an utter inability to write for more than twenty minutes or so without great difficulty. These attacks were followed by about the same feelings almost every day, until I was at last compelled to have a substitute. It left my hand and forearm very weak and subject to becoming easily tired; in fact, it was *hard work* to take notes. After a rest of a week or so I resumed work, but was constantly bothered until the June recess. I seem to be all right now, but as you see my writing is somewhat scraggy. I do not seem to have complete control of a pen, though the pencil, which I use, seems to go all right. Still, my forearm is weak and is easily tired. I consulted Dr. White, of New York, who said the nervous system had become very much over strained, and laid it entirely to my eyes which, from constantly looking at white paper in taking notes and reading the same, had affected the whole system. This I did not believe, but thought it advisable to tone up the whole nervous system, which I did. Another specialist told me the same thing Dr. White had. I concluded they knew not much about it, and I have done nothing since but take as good care of myself as possible, and use an electric battery which I found afforded much relief; bathed my arm in liniment of turpentine and capsicum, or Guinea pepper, rather more capsicum than turpentine—strong enough of capsicum to make it smart, rubbing in well with the hand. I also gave the arm from the shoulder down douches of very hot and cold water, turning on both hot and cold faucets where I could get my shoulder well under them, then passing from the very cold to the very hot, (as hot as I could bear it,) slapping it and endeavoring to arouse the dormant circulation, and while the arm was still heated rubbing in the capsicum and turpentine, then later applying the electric battery for say twenty minutes. I also had some of my athletic friends rub my arm. It did not altogether redeem the circulation but afforded much relief, so much so that I was able to go ahead for half days at a time, not for some time undertaking whole days in court. I do not find that same sort of fatigue in taking notes as I do in writing with a pen. I can write shorthand well enough to have it all transcribed from the original notes. Still this is the beginning of the season; what it will be later on I

am unable to say. I think the general exhaustion of the system consequent upon these long cases we have has as much to do with it as anything."

Another correspondent says :

"I was seriously threatened with 'writers' cramp' some dozen years ago, but rest and a change of method in holding the pen averted the disease. I used to write holding the pen in the Spencerian manner, but I now take the pen between the first and second fingers, occasionally changing to the space between second and third fingers. Within the past two years I detected some involuntary tremor and the characteristic pain of incipient writers' cramp, and I at once began to use the typewriter and to dictate to a stenographer. At the same time I took a larger amount of exercise and a course of nux vomica and phosphide of zinc, and I am again relieved of the least tremor of hand."

This gentleman writes a most beautiful hand, and so reduced in size as to almost require a microscope to decipher it.

#### MINOR NOTES.

Berger places the percentage of recovery at eight, Brain-workers, as a rule, are exempt from the disease.

Writers' spasm, as a rule, has no influence on the general health or on the duration of life.

Writers' cramp as a classical type of these troubles was first described by Sir Charles Bell in 1830.

Contrary to the prevailing opinion the employment alone of rowing, riding, etc., does not ward off or relieve the disease.

There may be in rare cases a slight wasting of certain muscles, but this is altogether exceptional in cases of true writers' cramp.

Investigation proves that a very large number of telegraphers, if not the majority, sooner or later, show some symptoms of the disease.

Americans, theoretically, ought to be very subject to it, but so far as observed this is not the case, and in New York city the disease is a somewhat rare one.

The abuse of tobacco, alcohol, or other excesses, as well as excessive emotion, predisposes to the affection. Gowers states it sometimes follows local injury.

I found while in London a curious penholder, called the Comet, which is worn on one finger, and is claimed to be a relief in writing and to prevent cramp, etc.

*The Index Medicus*, consisting of fourteen volumes, will give

those interested a reference to every article published upon the subject in all domestic and foreign magazines and publications.

Tight sleeves, ingrowing nails, hard-pointed pens, bad position and inconvenient tables, the pressure of a sleeve-button on the ulnar nerve are all mentioned as exciting causes of the affection, and may be elements in its production.

In Japan every child is taught to write with either and both hands, and this should be the practice in this country, for it is quite easy for children to learn to write with the left hand, and if this were the case it is doubtful if any writer, thus being able to divide his work between the two members, would ever be afflicted with the disease under discussion. Many of you will recall the arguments advanced upon this subject by Charles Reade.

The Boston *Medical and Surgical Journal* has an article on "A new adjuvant in the treatment of writers' palsy," which relates to the use of the fluid pencils (stylographic and McKinnon pens). It is said that stylographic pens are better to use because they do not require so much prehension of power in use. The same is true to a less degree with gold pens. Smooth paper and a properly arranged desk are also useful adjuncts in preventing trouble.

An interesting article "On the physiology of writing" is to be found in the Philadelphia *Medical Times* of February 28, 1880, and while not perhaps strictly germane to the subject, I quote a paragraph of interest:

"From time immemorial the Semitic tribes wrote with their right hands. It is well-known that the Semitic nations of the present day all write in this manner. Among the older nations writing was a holy art. The left hand has always been and is still considered unclean, and has to perform all the unclean offices connected with the body." It is very significant in this connection that in several of the Semitic languages the words 'hand' and 'right' are considered synonymous, the left hand being a thing too low to mention. Tables being of modern origin and not possessed by these nations their writing was done by pushing the skins towards the right hand, this organ being stationary, and as a consequence the writing was from right to left. This is the manner in which the Turks and Arabs of the present day write. The Koran commands you to keep your right hand quiet."

The use of the type-writer affords means of rest of the afflicted muscles, in many cases without a cessation of work. Where neuralgic symptoms are very marked, however, the machine cannot be used. Ranney states that he was himself afflicted and un-

able to write continuously with a pen for any length of time without severe distress, but could use the typewriter for hours without the slightest symptoms of cramp. Dr. Auld says it is well calculated to remove any tendency to the development of writers' cramp. Although one of the merits of the typewriter is said to be the immunity of its users from writers' cramp, I venture to assert that cases of this trouble will arise from its overuse exactly as they do from piano playing.\* I know of a gentleman in Troy who after three or four hours' use of the typewriter is unable to sleep at night owing to the, seemingly, insignificant shock to the nerves from the constant finger tapping of the keys.

Someone has calculated that a typewriter, writing 18,000 words a day, moves the fingers 48,000 feet, or over nine miles a day, being over 2,800 miles a year, a distance which one would scarcely think of attempting with their legs.

There are a number of publications, containing matter pertaining to writers' cramp, to which I have not had access; those interested and who wish to give the matter more thorough research will find references in the *Detroit Lancet*, 1880, iv, 97-9; *Cincinnati Lancet*, 1880, n. s., iv, 496; *Phila. Med. Times*, 1876-7, vii, 194; 217; *London Practitioner*, 1872, ix, 65, 74; *N. Y. Med. Journal*, 1874, xix, 397; *Maryland Med. Journal*, 1880-1, vii, 481-4; *Glasgow Med. Journal*, 1881, xv, 169-179; *Boston Med. Journal* 1873, vol. 88, page 261, (Vance's monograph;) same for 1865, (Solly's lectures); *London Med. Times & Gazette*, 1867, ii, 563.

In conclusion, the stenographer as he realizes this phase of this nervous disorder may well say, "Take any shape but that and my firm nerves shall never tremble."

I thank you for your patient attention. "To my unfolding lend a gracious ear" has never been better exemplified.

CHAIRMAN McLAUGHLIN—Discussion of the paper just read is in order.

Mrs. BURNZ—In the portion read last night, I formed the impression that writers of shorthand are not afflicted with writers' cramp from writing shorthand,

MR. RODGERS—There is but one report mentioned that makes any note of it as the result of writing shorthand.

\*Since the above was written I learn of a typewriter operator in New York who recently suddenly lost the use of the index finger from its use of the machine.

**MRS. BURNZ**—Did not the cases cited arise when we had to transcribe our notes in longhand, before the use of the type-writer?

**MR. RODGERS**—The three New York gentlemen have had a vast deal of experience, and so much labor has been imposed upon them that it would be impossible for them to have done much longhand work.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN**—I know personally one of the gentlemen, and I know of my own knowledge that it is not from that cause. I know that he dictates all his work to amanuenses.

**MRS. BURNZ**—In writing shorthand there is not the same regularity of stroke as in longhand writing. The hand is moving in a variety of directions, and there is not the continuous contraction of the muscles as in writing longhand.

**MR. LITTLE**—I have listened very attentively to the elaborate and learned statements which we have had presented in this paper. I have not looked up the subject as has my friend, Mr. Rodgers, and I am not able to discuss the subject with anything like the intelligence which he has displayed. It has always seemed to me that writers' cramp was a distinctive difficulty by itself and that it really had no connection whatever with other nervous disorders. My opinion, perhaps, is absolutely antagonistic to that of nearly all the medical experts. I listened attentively as to whether any opinion from Dr. McDonald had been obtained, but heard no reference to it. If any one has discovered that he has expressed any opinion upon the subject, I wish they would inform me what it is. My impression has always been, and will be until I am convinced to the contrary, (and after I am convinced to the contrary my opinion will still be the same as it is now,) that writers' cramp, or pen paralysis, as it is sometimes called, is almost entirely caused by the pen or pencil which is used and the position of the fingers while using them. I do not believe there can be an instance cited where writers' cramp has been caused by the use of a flexible point pen in writing shorthand. I believe that it is almost entirely produced by the use of a pencil, which, in my opinion, no first-class stenographer ought to use in court or elsewhere, or else it is caused by using a very stiff pen. The use of the pencil requires the use of all the muscles to so much greater extent than the use of a flexible pen that they are over-exerted and thus become over-fatigued,

and in consequence of this over-exertion one contracts writers' cramp. I do not take the ground that there are not first-class stenographers who put themselves to the extra trouble of using the pencil, or that there are not some stenographers that use a very stiff pen and "get there" just as satisfactorily as anybody else, but contend that it is extremely difficult for one unaccustomed to a stiff pen or pencil to use a very flexible pen. They are often entirely unable to control a flexible pen, that is, to make it go where they want it to go, and to make it do what they want it to do; but if they persevere they can subsequently write more rapidly and easily than with a stiff pen. To sum up what I have endeavored to say, it has been and still is my belief that if stenographers generally would discard the use of the pencil or stiff pen and adopt a medium coarse pointed flexible pen, they would never have writers' cramp. I think also that in the use of the pen, whatever kind it may be, some of the difficulty may be avoided by using the pen in different positions. I think that all stenographers should hold the pen as the gentleman does who is reporting for us to-day. It is a mere matter of custom, but if you become tired holding the pen that way, it is a very easy matter to put the pen between the first and second fingers. In five minutes time you put the pen back again and start in as fresh as you were in the morning. It is all a matter of custom. Some of us remember when some of the first-class stenographers in this State went along for five years after typewriters were used in every other stenographer's office in the State, saying that the time would never come when they would use typewriters in their offices. The time did come and they have been using them for a good many years. So you see it is a matter of habit. But that is a digression. I would move that the thanks of this convention be tendered to Mr. Rodgers for the presentation of his very able paper, and in recognition of the fact that it has cost a great deal of labor on his part. It is certainly a very comprehensive presentation to the stenographic profession on the subject of pen paralysis.

The motion was unanimously carried.

MR. SLOCUM—I think I have heard the query propounded before of "Who shall decide when doctors disagree?" I think that the subject of pen paralysis, while many people are liable to it, should

be considered by us in simply one direction. Not as to the causes, but as to the cure. The reason I say this is, that among all of the physicians whom Mr. Rodgers cites, we find no two who agree on the primary cause, whether from the particular manner in which the pen is used or the location of the beginning of the disease. My own opinion from personal knowledge, having suffered from the disease a number of years, is that the difficulty starts at the point in use and extends the same as any inflammation from the seat of its origin. The cause of the disease in my opinion is just the same in this species of cramp as it is in the blacksmith, I was very much interested in the statement of one of the physicians quoted that the cause was due to the use of fine muscular movements,—making short strokes. I have seen three different blacksmiths who were unable to strike three blows in even time. Of course their effort was with the larger muscles of the arm. I have seen a man who became afflicted with the disease simply from driving light nails in lathing. My opinion is that it does not make any difference whether you use a pen or pencil. The cause of this disease is in every case the same. It is an overtaxation of the same set of muscles and nerves, producing identical results. Referring to the use of pen and pencil, until I had pen paralysis I used a very flexible gold pen for ten or twelve years, and I only began to write with a pencil when I began to use my left hand.

**MR. LITTLE**—How did you hold your pen, Mr. Slocum?

**MR. SLOCUM**—I held my pen very similar to the way the Secretary holds his (the ordinary way). I never held the pen very tightly in my hand. The cause, as I say, is the same in every case, in my opinion. One person may hold his pen all his life in one position and never have pen paralysis. Another person may have it in a year and from using his pen in the same way. You have undoubtedly seen horses with the springhalt. It may occur from drawing a load too heavy for them and overstraining their limbs by pulling the load a half a mile, and they may never recover from it. The paralysis in my belief is caused in the same way. You strain the muscles or the nerves to a point beyond their endurance and that extends to the nerve centers and produces lack of co-ordination. I knew a gentleman in Buffalo who had pen paralysis in this way: He would write a letter as readily as ever

he did, but when he tried to write his signature he could never do it except by taking the pen and going as slowly as possible. The cause of that was that he was a bank teller and had to write his name very rapidly several hundred times a day, making the same motions each time. His writing was not impeded in any other writing except in writing that one name.

As I said before, we should only consider what will cure, or what will be most likely to cure the disease, rather than to look for the cause that produced it or the seat of its location. From consultation with several of the most eminent physicians of this country, among whom I think the most talented one was Dr. Bigelow, of Boston, the consensus of opinion was, primarily, rest, and building up the system by proper food and remedies to obtain good nutrition, with local applications of either electricity or the Swedish movement cure. In Mr. Rodger's paper, towards the close of it, some physician speaking of the different currents that should be used does not advise the use of the interrupted current. From my own study of my own case and careful observation of the results as to how electricity cures, I am satisfied that the only benefit that can come from the use of electricity in this disease is from the interrupted current, and for this reason: When we have paralysis or nerve exhaustion, appearing as writers' cramp and spasmodic action, there is a waste in the muscles corresponding with the disease of the nerve. To make a healthy nerve we have got to have a healthy muscle, and the nerve supplies the action of the muscles. Any system of exertion which will produce action of the muscles without loss of nerve force, builds up the muscles by causing nutrition to be carried to them, and in that way sustains the nerve. If we make a vibration similar to that which we make by our will, or cause the blood to feed the muscles by use of outside aids, then we build up the nerve, and we do it by the interrupted current in that way. We get a spasmodic action from the electricity and when the muscles get strength they feed the nerves and they get strength. So with the Swedish movement cure. I suffered with my arm so that I could not sleep nights without taking hypodermic injections of morphine. Dr. Coleman in charge of the Swedish movement cure gave me treatment which moved all the muscles of the arm. I went home the first night and went to sleep without any morphine and after continuing that



treatment for several months I had no more trouble with sleep. In regard to the use of the left hand and the disease recurring in that in a much shorter time, in my case it did not occur in my left hand. I commenced using the left hand and continued to use it until my right hand was all right again. I would change from the right hand to the left when tired and from the left to the right and in that way continued in good health without a recurrence of the trouble.

**MRS. BURNZ**—I would say that as a teacher I instruct my pupils to hold the pen or pencil very loosely, as I think a great deal of the tired feeling that comes from writing several hours is caused by gripping the pencil too tightly with the fingers of the hand. If the pencil or pen is held as loosely as possible, so that the pencil can be rolled around as it were, the sensation of weariness will not be relieved, but it will not come. Persons can write for hours if they hold the pencil or pen very lightly. When pupils are learning, as soon as their minds are intensely engaged in the writing of forms, they sometimes get in the habit of gripping the pen or pencil very tightly, and if persisted in I think it might eventually result in writers' cramp. Mr. Rodgers has referred to the tightly holding of the pen or pencil, which is a very important point, I think.

**MR. RODGERS**—Not until Mr. Slocum stated the fact a moment ago was it in my recollection that he or any other member of the profession had ever, before the Association, touched upon the topic under discussion; but a revival of it is perhaps not amiss, for it will call the attention of those interested to a perusal of what Mr. Slocum must have so well stated at that time, (Proceedings of 1881 at Buffalo,) and which doubtless contains matter which I have overlooked. Had I recalled his paper at the time of writing my own I should have availed myself of its leading points by way of bringing the subject-matter together in one paper. Not having done so I trust that from the tedious length of my notes you will turn to his paper as an appropriate antidote and invigorator.

There being no further discussion on the paper, the President resumed the Chair.

**THE PRESIDENT**—So far as I am advised I know of no other papers to be presented.

MR. McLAUGHLIN—If in order I would like the privilege of presenting a paper with leave to print. I did not have opportunity to prepare it in time. The subject is, *Is Shorthand Writing Mechanical?* I had quite a discussion during a case I reported in New York with the *New York World*, which took occasion to criticise my work in the case, and said the stenographer read his notes in the way that a man does whose chief brain work was purely mechanical; therefore I thought it would be a good subject to present to the Association.

THE PRESIDENT—It would certainly be a very good subject. It ought to open up quite a wide discussion.

MR. ROSE—I move that Mr. McLaughlin be requested to present a paper on that subject. (Carried.)

The following is the paper presented :

### IS SHORTHAND WRITING MECHANICAL ?

(BY PETER P. McLAUGHLIN, OF NEW YORK.)

**T**HERE has been much discussion during the past year, in shorthand periodicals and elsewhere, on the question "Is shorthand writing a profession?" Some who style themselves "ex-stenographers," and who doubtless left the ranks because they were unable to keep up with the procession, have contended that shorthand writers are mere machines, have no brains and do not need any because they simply take down what they hear and write it out. It is hard enough to maintain our position against cranky lawyers and stubborn business men who are, at times, wont to belittle our calling, but when one of our number, who has used the profession of stenography as a stepping stone to something in his opinion higher, undertakes to make us appear small in the eyes of our fellows, our patience becomes exhausted and we feel more like using physical force than convincing argument.

That stenography is a profession is conceded by all who wish to accord to shorthand writers their due. Webster defines a profession to be "That of which one professes knowledge; the occupation, if not mechanical, agricultural or the like, to which one devotes himself; the business which one professes to understand and to follow for subsistence; calling, vocation, employment, as the profession of a clergyman, a lawyer or a physician and sur-

geon." Worcester says that a profession is "occupation, business, or office employment; especially an employment requiring a learned education, as those of divinity, law or physic." Ex-stenographers and others may say "Ah, Mr. Webster and Mr. Worcester do not include stenographers in their definition." No, they do not neither do they include musical composers, singers, architects, journalists, actors, poets, authors, scientists, chemists, artists or college professors. Can it be claimed that men following any of these callings are not professional men? If a learned education be the test then stenographers are as much entitled to be numbered among professional men as are lawyers. The education requisite for a stenographer who can hold himself out as capable of reporting any kind of matter is greater than that required to make the average lawyer. In one case the evidence may relate to mechanics, the next to chemistry, another to medicine and still another to architecture. Without intellectual cultivation and a general knowledge of all branches the most rapid writer cannot hope for success. At times notes are written at so high a degree of speed that the shorthand outlines are not at all shapely, and at such times the writer's knowledge of the subject comes into play and enables him to decipher what would otherwise be Greek to him. A good general education is indispensable to success as a shorthand writer. The wider his range of knowledge the easier his work. It is not any exaggeration to say that there are hundreds of stenographers in this country to-day whose education is equal if not beyond that of the lawyers whose words they report. Mistakes in grammar, which any school boy should not make, are often corrected by the reporter before he hands in his copy to the "learned" counsel. The fact that the law is called a learned profession does not imply that all lawyers are learned. There is certainly sufficient authority for classing stenography as a profession in this extract from a letter of that profound philosopher, Dr. Samuel Johnson. He says "Shorthand, on account of its great general utility, merits a much higher rank among the arts and sciences than is commonly allotted to it. Its usefulness is not confined to any particular science or profession but it is universal; it is therefore by no means unworthy the attention and study of men of genius and erudition."

If a stenographer is not a professional man, what is he? A me-

chanic? Relying again on that standard authority Webster I affirm that a stenographer is not a mechanic. "A mechanic," says Webster, "is one who works with machines or instruments, more specifically one who practices any mechanic art, one skilled or employed in shaping or uniting materials as wood, metal, etc." Mechanic arts are those in which the hands and body are more employed than the mind. The writing of shorthand is not a mere mechanical art. It requires alertness of the mind, deftness of the fingers, a retentive memory, sound judgment, ingenuity, and a thorough command of language. A trained intellect is absolutely necessary to successful shorthand writing to correctly guide the fingers which are doing the mechanical part of the work. The faculties it brings into play, the discipline of the brain and hand it necessitates, the numerous qualifications required in its successful prosecution, all entitle it to be placed above mere mechanical work.

Is the writing of shorthand a mechanical operation? For a third time appealing to the same authority we find the word mechanical is defined to be "Pertaining to or governed by or in accordance with mechanics or the laws of motion; depending upon mechanism or machinery. Hence done as if by machine, without conscious exertion of the will, proceeding from habit and not from intention or reflection." Can stenography be written according to the laws of motion or without conscious exertion of the will? To follow a speaker in shorthand it is necessary that the hearing should be acute to catch the words as they fall from the lips, the mind should be quick to think what figure in shorthand represents that word, and the fingers should be deft to place that action of the mind upon paper. Shorthand writing does not proceed from habit, but it requires the intention of placing the shorthand figure upon the paper, and the reflection of the mind, momentary though it be, to decide just how that figure should be made. Stenographers who are doing the best work in the profession are not mechanical writers. There may be some mechanical (the proper term is incompetent) stenographers. Some of them, for the benefit of the profession, have doubtless become lawyers, in which calling their lack of general ability will not be so readily discovered. But the stenographers who are at the head of their profession, and deserve to be there, are not mere machines, and do not write or transcribe their notes mechanically. Such mechanical

reporters could not hope for success as against men who wrote "with conscious exertion of the will, and with intention and reflection." What a fearful and wonderful report a stenographer would make of the testimony of a medical expert using such terms as the "superior, anterior, spinous process of the ilium" if his mind was not on the subject and he was writing his notes from habit and mechanically. His transcript of notes taken in that way would be worthy a place in a stenographic museum.

A specimen of mechanical work is furnished by the wonderful doings of the phonograph, which was supposed would take the place of stenographers. As soon as Mr. Edison is able to put human brains into a phonograph so that it can distinguish between right and wrong, and discriminate between wheat and chaff, then he may accomplish that end, and the stenographer's occupation will be gone. A trial of the phonograph was had in a reference case recently. If a stenographer had reported the examination it would have read thus : "Q. What is your business ? A. Lumber, commission. I solicit orders for door-casings, etc. Q. Do you know the defendant, Mr. Jones ? A. Yes, sir. Q. And Mr. Kavanagh ? Answer yes or no. A. Yes. Q. You heard his testimony given yesterday ? A. Yes, most of it. Q. He was asked how many casings had this turned moulding on them and he said he could not tell. Do you know ? A. I could not tell ; a great many."

As the phonograph ground it out mechanically it read, "Mr. Peck, what's your business ? Eh ? What do you say—what is your business ?" (the phonograph gave this very loud as the witness was deaf.) "Oh, my business ? Lumber, commission. I answered that before. I solicit door-casings, etc." (Here the phonograph gave a distinct laugh.) "What do you do—do you get them ? I mean I solicit orders for door-casings, etc. Do you know the defendant, Mr. Jones ? Yes, sir. And Mr. Kavanagh ? Well, I dunno, pretty well. I am acquainted with him. You can't always say you know a person—Never mind moralizing, answer the question—yes or no. Are you acquainted with him—if you like that better. Yes. You heard his testimony given yesterday ? Yes, most of it—all I was listening to. I am a little hard of hearing—been so since, le'me see. He was asked—Where is it—— (Here the phonograph broke off suddenly and began to

relate an anecdote of General Sheridan in the late war, which had been told by one of the counsel during the hearing. It was no use to remind the phonograph that it was irrelevant and immaterial. When it finished it resumed the examination. "He was asked how many casings had this turned moulding on them, and he said he could not tell; do you know? I couldn't tell; a great many. Did you— Here is a gentleman to see you, Mr. Blakely. I can't see him now, I am engaged. Tell him to call again. Tom, come back and shut this door. Take this letter to the post-office. Excuse me for interrupting. (The phonograph gave an imitation of the shutting of a door.) For eighteen seconds the phonograph seemed divided between a desire to report the question and to imitate the rumbling of a cart which went through the street, with a few notes of what sounded like "Lanigan's Ball," on a hand organ.

Stenographers are rational beings, not machines; they have brains and they do use them. Our art is a profession in the highest sense of the word. While we do not look after the property, lives, or aches or pains of our clients, yet upon our skill and honesty will often depend the property and sometimes the lives of those by whom we are employed. There is an erroneous impression abroad that any one who has learned stenography and can write it is an expert. A number have chosen stenography as a profession who have not the requisite training and scientific attainments. A prejudice has arisen against us on account of the defective and unsatisfactory performances of such people. It is the duty of all the respectable and competent men of our craft to do everything that can be done to convince the world that we are not mere machines, but men with ideas, who think and who use their thoughts, brains and education in their stenographic work.

THE PRESIDENT—If there is no objection we will consider ourselves under the order of miscellaneous business.

(MR. LAW in the chair.)

MR. LITTLE moved that the present officers of the association hold over until the next regular meeting.

MR. RODGERS—I am not in favor of that motion. I hope it will be voted down. This motion is a personal matter to me, and if carried it will leave me in my present position. I do not propose

to be even voted in. I shall decline to serve if you choose to carry the motion. I am in favor of a complete change of officers. I do not regard this association as dead by any means. I purpose later on to move that we meet at the time prescribed by our constitution, at Niagara Falls, and I think that enough members will be induced to attend, and make their visit to the Chicago Fair coincide with the time of our meeting, as to assure a very respectable meeting. Of course, there is not much doubt but that ninety per cent. of our members will attend the Chicago Exposition, and if they could take in our meeting on their way there, they would undoubtedly make their engagements accordingly. If we had no regular meeting then they would go at the time most convenient to them. If we hold our meeting in Niagara Falls next year some of them will make it convenient to make their trip to the World's Fair about the time of our meeting, and either stop off and see us on their way there or on their return home. It is perfectly impracticable to hold our annual meeting in Chicago. The proposition made by Mr. Brown is nonsense. The other state associations have constitutions as well as we, and they hold annual meetings, none of them, held at the same time, except possibly Ohio and New York. Every stenographer in this state who attends the World's Fair will have to go to the western confines of this state, which is substantially Niagara Falls. I trust that the motion which has been made will not prevail.

**MR. LITTLE**—If there is a serious objection urged by Mr. Rodgers on his part, I would willingly withdraw the motion, but it seems to me that our affairs are going to be exceedingly mixed next year, and I made that motion for the purpose of carrying us over another year, without another election. If it is the purpose of the Association to have a regular meeting in this state next year, all well and good. In that event we ought to have new officers elected. It has been the idea, of some at least, that possibly next year we should skip our meeting and meet in Chicago. If the members are in favor of having our annual meeting at Niagara Falls I should be in favor of the election of a new set of officers.

**MR. ROSE**—It seems to me to be almost impossible to combine our meeting with the Chicago meeting. There will be representative stenographers from all over this country and from Europe,

whom we would all like to meet. We do not know at the present time what time they will be there or what time they can go there. It seems to me if we hold a state meeting we ought to hold it independent of any other consideration.

MR. LITTLE—I withdraw my motion, Mr. Chairman, and I move that the chair appoint a committee of two to nominate officers for the ensuing year. Carried.

THE CHAIRMAN appointed Mr. Little and Mr. Rose.

The committee retired and subsequently reported as follows:

President—George R. Bishop, New York.

Vice President—Charles F. King, Glens Falls.

Secretary and Treasurer—William Loeb, Jr., Albany.

Librarian—Eliza B. Burnz, New York.

Executive Committee—James M. Ruso, Albany; Henry L. Beach, Binghamton; Charles H. Bailey, Buffalo; N. P. Hefley, Brooklyn; Peter P. McLaughlin, New York; the President, *ex-officio*.

MR. RODGERS moved that the report be adopted and the gentlemen be declared the officers of the association for the coming year. Carried.

MR. LITTLE moved that the next place of meeting be the International Hotel, Niagara Falls, on the fourth Thursday of August, 1893. Carried.

MR. KING—In the letter from Chicago regarding the International Congress, there is a suggestion made as to associations of the different states being represented. As the time of the meeting of this Congress is not fixed, would it not be well to take some action now, appointing or giving authority to appoint delegates to the Congress?

MR. RODGERS—I think it ought to be noted on the record, and also published in the shorthand journals, that we have taken the matter of visiting Chicago into consideration, and while we do not take any definite action, it is understood informally that after our meeting at Niagara Falls we will undoubtedly go to Chicago. A private letter from the Secretary of the Ohio state association trusts our association will take some steps toward meeting in Chicago in 1893. The Indiana and Illinois Associations have already taken some action.



**MR. KING**—That Congress might meet before our annual meeting. We ought to make some provision for that.

**MR. LITTLE**—I move that our Secretary be instructed to communicate with Mr. Dan Brown, of Chicago, as to when and where our meeting will be held, with the expectation that as many members as can do so will go from thence to Chicago, and that it is hoped that the time of the meeting of the World's Congress will be as soon thereafter as may be, with a view of not only giving the members of the New York State Association an opportunity to be present, but that the members of other state associations may also be present. Carried.

**MR. LITTLE** moved that Mr. Rose and Mr. Rodgers be appointed the Committee on Printing for the ensuing year. Carried.

**PRESIDENT RODGERS** resumed the chair.

**MR. ROSE** moved that a vote of thanks be extended to the proprietor of the Adelphi for accommodations furnished during the meeting. Carried.

**MR. SLOCUM** moved that the Secretary be instructed to notify each of the delinquent members that if their dues are not paid before the printing of this year's report, their names will be dropped from the roll.

**MR. ROSE** moved that the time be extended to the next regular meeting, and the amendment was accepted.

**MR. LITTLE**—I second the motion as amended, and withdraw the second on the ground that the motion is entirely unnecessary as well as unconstitutional. Section 1, Article 5 of the By-laws, reads:

“If any member fails to pay the amount of his assessment within sixty days after notice by mail shall have been served upon him by the Secretary, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to serve upon him by mail, an additional notice, that unless the same be paid within one month thereafter, the name of such member shall be stricken from the rolls, and, in default of payment at or before the expiration of that time, his membership and all rights in respect thereof shall cease. But upon his written application explaining the default, and upon the payment of all dues to the date of such application, the Executive Committee shall have power to reinstate such defaulting member.”

I suggest that the Secretary be advised to enforce the existing provisions which cover this question.

MR. SLOCUM withdrew the motion.

MR. McLAUGHLIN moved that the thanks of the association be tendered to the outgoing board of officers for the efficient manner in which they have performed their duties. Carried.

Then upon motion of Mr. Rose, the convention adjourned.

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The following meetings of the Association have been held since the original call of August 18, 1876 :

1. Syracuse, August 26, 1876.
2. Ithaca, August 20, 1877.
3. Rochester, August 21 and 22, 1878.
4. Saratoga Spa., August 20 and 21, 1879.
5. Syracuse, August 19 and 20, 1880.
6. Buffalo, August 24 and 25, 1881.
7. New York, August 1 and 2, 1882.
8. Watkins, August 21 and 22, 1883.
9. Greene County, Laurel House, August 19, 1884.
10. Niagara Falls, August 18 and 19, 1885.
11. Caldwell, August 17 and 18, 1886.
12. Alexandria, August 16 and 17, 1887.
13. Caldwell, August 21 and 22, 1888.
14. Alexandria, August 20 and 21, 1889.
15. Greene County, Mountain House, August 19 and 20, 1890.
16. Rochester, August 18 and 19, 1891.
17. Saratoga Spa., August 25 and 26, 1892.

## OFFICERS FOR 1892-93.

**PRESIDENT**—GEORGE R. BISHOP, New York.

**VICE-PRESIDENT**—CHAS. F. KING, Glens Falls.

**SECRETARY AND TREASURER**—WM. LOEB, Jr., Albany.

**LIBRARIAN**—MRS. ELIZA B. BURNZ, New York.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**—JAMES M. RUSSO, Albany ; HENRY L. BEACH, Binghamton ; CHAS. H. BAILEY, Buffalo ; N. P. HEFFLEY, Brooklyn ; PETER P. McLAUGHLIN, New York ; The President, *ex-officio*.

**EXAMINING COMMITTEE**—CHARLES A. MORRISON, New York ; MRS. C. E. BROCKWAY, Brooklyn ; CHARLES F. KING, Glens Falls ; JAMES M. RUSSO, Albany. WILLIS H. PORTER, Watertown ; MRS. CLARA A. WHITE, Elmira ; MISS MARY E. LYONS, Rochester ; CHARLES A. BAILEY, Buffalo.

## MEMBERSHIP.

Adams, Frederick M.	101 U. S. P. O. Building, New York.
Aldrich, James W.	Buffalo.
Anderson, William	New York.
Aron, Charles H.	24 Harman St., Brooklyn.
Appell, George C.	Mount Vernon, New York.
Bailey, Charles H.	Buffalo.
Ballantyne, M. Jeannette	129 Powers' Building, Rochester.
Beach, Henry L.	Binghamton.
Behrends, Mrs. Elgenia	Buffalo.
Bensley, Mark F.	Buffalo.
Bishop, George R.	New York Stock Exchange, New York.
Blount, Sarah M.	Batavia.
Brockway, Mrs. Clara E.	22 South Elliott Place, Brooklyn.
Burnz, Mrs. Eliza B.	22 Clinton Place, New York.
Chapin, Robert C.	Buffalo.
Cochrane, Grace M.	Wilder Building, Rochester.
Cragin, Irving F.	44 Niagara Street, Buffalo.
Culver, W. R.	Opera House Building, Lockport.
Davis, Edmund T.	Room 188, U. S. P. O. Building, New York.
Dickinson, Edward B.	Mills Building, New York.
Estabrook, W. B.	815 Powers' Building, Rochester.
Emens, Etta A.	Ithaca.
Emens, Miss Cora M.	815 Powers' Building, Rochester.
Griffith, Thos. R.	409 Powers' Building, Rochester.
Guy, Charles L.	120 Broadway, New York.
Hagerty, Frank T.	Buffalo.
Hefley, N. P.	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.
Hutchings, Irving C.	409 Powers Building, Rochester.
King, Charles F.	Glens Falls.
Lammert, Henry C.	Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., New York.
Lansing, R. H.	81 State Street, Rochester.
Lansing, W. R.	District Attorney's Office, Rochester.
Law, Robert R.	Cambridge, N. Y.
Little, Adelbert P.	409, 411, 412, 413 Powers' Building Rochester.
Lyons, Mary E.	409 Powers' Building, Rochester.
Loeb, William, Jr.	83 Washington Avenue, Albany.
McLaughlin, Peter P.	106 Nassau Street, New York.
Morrison, Charles A.	85 Wall St., Room 11, New York.
Moore, Sarah A.	Advertiser Building, Elmira.
Moynahan, Bartholomew	120 Broadway, New York.
Murray, John B.	Delhi.
Oppenheim, Samuel.	29 William St., New York.
Osborne, Thomas W.	229 Broadway, New York.
Osgoodby, W. W.	310 Powers Building, Rochester.
Porter, Willis H.	Watertown.
Potts, John R.	32 Nassau St., New York.
Readshaw, B. W.	128 Bird Avenue, Buffalo.
Ridgway, Miss A. K.	229 Broadway, New York.

Rodgers, S. C.	Tweddle Building, Albany, and Mutual Building, Troy.
Rose Theo. C.	Robinson Building, Elmira.
Ruso, James M.	Tweddle Building, Albany.
Rowley, Mrs. E. F.	347 Powers' Building, Rochester.
Shea, Frank D.	Department Public Instruction, Albany.
Slocum, Wm. H.	257 Washington St., Buffalo.
Thomas, William M.	Attorney General's Office, Albany.
Thornton, George H.	White Building, Buffalo.
Underhill, Edward F.	Tribune Building, New York.
VanNamee, Miss M. A.	54 Wall St., New York.
White, Mrs. Clara A.	Elmira.
Woodie, Leopold.	6 Wall St., New York.
Wright, George W.	62 Wall St., New York.
Wyckoff, W. O.	327 Broadway, New York.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

Bartholomew, M. M.	36 E. 14th St., New York.
Bender, Chas. H.	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Benough, Thos.	Cor. Church and Adelaide Sts., Toronto.
Benham, Miss Katherine E.	Burlington, Vt.
Bennett, J. L.	81 Clark St., Chicago.
Bigelow, Thos.	City Court, Part I, Brooklyn.
Bissell, Miss Frances	St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Browne, Scott D. L.	251 W. 14th St., New York.
Butcher, N. R.	Toronto, Ont.
Cromelina, R. F.	Harrisburg, Pa.
Cross, J. Geo.	108 State St., Chicago.
Davies, H. J.	Cleveland, Ohio.
Dement, Isaac S.	Chicago, Ill.
Deming, Philander	12 Jay St., Albany, N. Y.
Demming, Henry C.	Court House, Harrisburg, Pa.
Devine, Andrew	House of Reps., (Reporters' Room,) Washington, D. C.
Dixon, Geo. S.	124 Lexington Ave., New York.
Dunlop, N. Stewart	President Canadian Society, Toronto, Ont.
Easton, Edw. D.	Washington, D. C.
Fairbanks, F. P.	Norwich, Conn.
Fritcher, Chas. E.	Williamsport, Pa.
Gage, Jennie A.	Saginaw, Mich.
Gardner, Stanley	McKeesport, Pa.
Goodner, Ivan W.	Huron, Dak.
Graham, A. J.	Orange, N. J.
Head, Arthur	Towanda, Pa.
Hitchcock, Geo. F. Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Horton, E. E.	Toronto, Ont.
Ireland, Fred	House of Reps., (Reporters' Room,) Washington, D. C.
Kellogg, George	New York.
McGurrian, Frank E.	Salt Lake City, Utah.
Meyer, Oscar	Allentown, Pa.
Mimms, John H.	St. Albans, Vt.
Mitchell, Robert W.	Portland, Ore.
Perry, W. W.	Toronto, Ont.
Pinckney, Thomas	Sec'y Canadian Society, Toronto, Ont.
Pitman, Ben.	Carlisle Building, Cincinnati.
Reed, Thos. Allen	37 Curstitor Lane, London, Eng.
Ritchie, John	Chicago, Ill.
Rockwell, Julius Ensign	Washington, D. C.
Rockwell, Irving C.	Chicago, Ill.
Squibb, F. J.	Chicago, Ill.
Thornton, Wm. H.	14 Fargo Ave., Buffalo.
Tilley, T. J.	117 W. Sixth St., Kansas City, Mo.
VanDyne, Fred	Surgeon Gen'l's Office, Washington, D. C.
Walch, Henry F.	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Wilson, S. G.	231 South Fifth St., Philadelphia.
Woodworth, W. A.	Denver, Col.
Wright, Wm. B.	Room 62, 28 School St., Boston.
Yerlington, J. M. W.	27 Pemberton Sq., Boston.
York, E. D.	Washington.
Zeibig, Prof. J. W.	Dresden, Saxony.

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**Eighteenth Annual Report**  
... OF THE ...  
**N. Y. S. S. A.**





PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE  
Stenographers' Association,

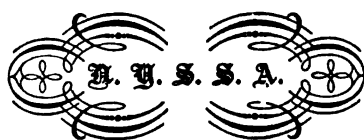
INCLUDING  
PAPERS READ, Etc.,  
AT THE  
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT  
NIAGARA FALLS, AUGUST 24 and 25, 1893.

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ALBANY, N. Y.:  
WEED-PARSONS PRINTING COMPANY.  
1893.

*The Association*



## EIGHTEENTH CONVENTION.

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### PROCEEDINGS.

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#### FIRST DAY.

THE eighteenth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at the International Hotel, Niagara Falls, on the 24th and 25th days of August, 1893.

The meeting was called to order by President Bishop.

There were present:

BALLANTYNE, MISS M. JEANETTE. ....	Rochester,
BISHOP, GEORGE R.....	New York,
EMENS, MISS ETTA A.....	Rochester,
KING, CHARLES F.....	Glens Falls,
LITTLE, ADELBERT P.....	Rochester,
READSHAW, BENJAMIN W.....	Buffalo,
ROSE, THEO. C.....	Elmira,
WHITE, MRS. CLARA A.....	Elmira.

There were also present as visitors the Misses Belle and Carrie Nixon, of Rochester, Miss Florence Rose, of Elmira, Miss Kate H. Carroll, of Buffalo, Messrs. Charles F. Gokey and Willard L. Hayward, of Newark, N. J., Messrs. Nelson R. Butcher, Neil Stewart Dunlop, Thomas Bengough and Henry T. Smith, of Toronto, Ont.

In the absence of the Secretary, Miss Etta A. Emens was chosen Secretary *pro tem*.

The President addressed the convention as follows:

*Members of the Association, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I hesitate to utter a word of apology in opening these proceedings. It has been customary for each of our presiding officers to prepare, with some care, an introductory address.

This I myself had done when I had the honor, ten years ago this very month, of first occupying, at a regular annual meeting, your presidential chair. It would have been consonant with my own wishes to have indicated in a similar way my appreciation of that kindness on your part which led you to once more call me to preside over your deliberations. I have, however, no prepared address. The demands on my time and energies, before I left home on my vacation, were incessant, a compliance with them onerous if not exhausting; and since I left the city ten days ago I have been resting, letting the fair landscape and soft air of the Berkshire country—the sight of the cloud-shadows lying on green valley and brown upland, the mingled green and white of the blossoming buckwheat, the ripening corn yellowing under the gentle touch of the swiftly vanishing summer—woo me to idleness. Hence, I have failed to arouse myself to such energy as was indispensable to the preparing of an appropriate formal opening; and this is the dereliction for which I feel that I should apologize. I can make merely a few introductory observations. I hope you will excuse such evidences of lack of elaborateness as may mark them, and be lenient, should what I say seem utterly valueless.

Perhaps you should know that ten years ago I was treated to a bit of sarcasm which might well discourage me from indulging again in so lengthy an opening as I then inflicted upon you. I believe I occupied on that occasion nearly the whole of our first short session. You will recall that at that meeting we were welcomed to Watkins by the judge of that county, a friend of Mr. Rose, our member who was to then succeed me in office. I expressed the hope, in responding for the Association, that the judge might be present at our session—meaning our *whole* session; but by a misprint I was represented as saying not *our* session, but *one* session; whereat our member from New York city whose name heads our active list, remarked to me that it must have required considerable assurance on my part to invite this polite member of the judiciary to be present at only *one* session, and then go on and occupy the whole of it myself! However, I have never laid this up against my New York associate; on the other hand, my intimate acquaintance with him has given me such a knowledge of his quality, as a stenographer and citizen, that

if he had ever attended an annual meeting at which I also was present, I should have asked you to make him our chief officer, knowing that in so doing you would have done a characteristically appropriate thing, as members of an association of professional shorthand writers.

We have certainly come together, on this occasion, under happy auspices as to locality. It seems appropriate that we should from time to time meet on this western border of our commonwealth; that, so meeting, we should select this spot, so near to historic battlefields of eighty years ago, that had we been here then we might have heard the reverberating thunder of cannon above the roar of the great cataract; that we should meet by this swift outlet to the five great inland seas, the median line of four of which forms, for so many hundreds of miles, our northern national boundary. We involuntarily and instinctively pause at the threshold of any discussion upon which we may be about to enter, to meditate on the beauty, the sublimity, the vast physical energy here constantly displayed. One cannot but think of those mighty lakes of limpid emerald that discharge their waters between these rocky walls. If a geographer, a student of the systems of great rivers, one can hardly fail to reflect, as his thought flies westward, that the watershed that separates this system from the next is so slender that the sources of the St. Louis, the most far-reaching tributary of Superior, come very near to those of the Great Red River of the North whose waters flow into Winnipeg and the Nelson, and thence into Hudson's Bay and the North Atlantic; and again, that the western confluent of the Red start close to those of the Saskatchewan, whose waters take a more northerly trend, and, discharging into the Mackenzie, finally, through grinding ice and scenes of perpetual desolation, reach the Arctic ocean at a point where few navigators ever touch; how, still further to the west, among the spurs of the far northern Rockies, the great Alaskan river, the Youkon, with its reputed two thousand miles of navigable water, rises, flowing into Norton's Sound and Behring Sea at a point as far west of the parallel of San Francisco as the latter is from that of Maine,—so vast the acquisition which the foresight, the diplomacy, the statesmanship of our Seward inspired him to favor and enabled him to negotiate.

Recalling ourselves, however reluctantly, from reflections that spontaneously arise from a contemplation of our surroundings, we revert to the Association under whose auspices we meet, the objects and interests that were intended to be subserved by its formation and active existence. I think those who organized this body may be said to have had in view purposes that were not at all chimerical; that its history of nearly twenty years may justly be appealed to in support of our claim that its existence has been practical and beneficent. Doubtless those of us who have from year to year met, with at most only an occasional exception, in its annual meetings, have been most forcibly impressed with that conviction. Some, indeed, have thought our methods and purposes were too practical; that we did not import into our papers and discussions enough of the literature and history and idealism of our art. When the late Cornelius Walford — whose presence at our meeting in 1884 and at that of the International Association of the same year was so gratifying — returned from a visit he shortly afterward made to Canada — where he met a good many of our Toronto friends, he told me — I thought with an expression of sadness — that he found the members of the Canadian Association much more interested in questions of fees and folios than in the literature, rich as it was, of the subject. I think he felt — though he did not express it to me — a similar disappointment concerning the mental attitude of the members of this and of the International Association. I sympathized somewhat with him, but saw, nevertheless, that there was much to commend the point of view which was farthest from his own; that it was, after all, the fundamental one, for all who earn their livelihood by this practice. The question of living in comfort comes first; the matter of the luxuries, the elegancies, the embellishments of life, comes in for consideration afterward. Mr. Walford was a barrister-at-law who seemed to have retained, in his mature years, all the interest he had ever felt in shorthand when he was a practical reporter; he owned one of the finest of shorthand libraries; he no longer depended on reporting for his living; with his mind somewhat withdrawn from the purely utilitarian character of the art, he himself treated the subject as an interesting luxury; with antiquarian tastes he dwelt with satisfaction on early shorthand literature

and achievements. Though greatly admiring America and its people — dwelling with noticeable enthusiasm on certain of our colloquial peculiarities, such as the western figures of speech and short-cut expressions reproduced in Mark Twain, an author whom he knew personally, and admired,— he was, nevertheless, a patriotic Englishman, proud of the early and multifarious shorthand literature which his country has given to the world. It is needless to say to you that the better we know that literature, the better we are able to appreciate his admiration for the achievements of his countrymen; for as inventors of systems, they have shown persistency, versatility and ingenuity. I have ventured, as some of you may remember, to indulge some skepticism concerning the strict accuracy of the marvelous accounts found in Roman annals touching reportorial feats attributed to the shorthand writers of the time of the Cæsars; first, because some of those accounts are inherently improbable, in view of all the then conditions; secondly, because — as has been shown by Prof. Ihne, in his *History of Rome*, by Prof. J. R. Seeley, in the Introduction to his as yet incomplete edition of Livy, and by other high authorities — there seems to have been a disposition, almost uncontrollable, on the part of the Latin annalists, to glorify Roman achievements, even at the expense of historic accuracy. Acknowledging the great service our honored member, Mr. Heffley, has rendered by his efforts to elucidate the early history of our art, I still think he fails to apply quite as severe a criticism to the early annals and legends as the premises demand. Having, however, in 1883, touched on this matter of Roman exaggeration, I need not further dwell upon it now. No doubt there is ground for skepticism also concerning considerable that our early English authors and their friends assert; but we have a talisman in this, — that we have the authors' works themselves, as data from which in part to draw our conclusions. While the title-pages of many text-books of the early systems bristle with what are obviously highly exaggerated statements and pretensions, yet, after a close examination, we must concede that there is a large element of credible narrative that will withstand the test of criticism, and survive as authentic and veracious history. A large residuum of actual achievement may be predicated, for at least two of the three hundred years that have elapsed since the time (1588) when

Bright's *Characterie* was issued. Occasionally one interested in the subject will unexpectedly stumble upon a luminous statement—something out of the range of any inducement or incentive to exaggerate. Fortunately for us our personal interest as Americans is occasionally aroused or intensified by the discovery of some new fact culled out of colonial history. In remarks made two years ago at the annual meeting of our sister association, the New England, I referred to the fact, as appropriate to that locality and interesting to New Englanders, that there was, in their Boston Public Library, a printed copy of a report, taken in shorthand, of the trial of those concerned in that exciting pre-revolutionary event, the Boston Massacre ; and to the further fact that many of the colonial clergy wrote their sermons in shorthand. I have only recently recalled to mind that among those said to have possessed that accomplishment was Roger Williams ; and it is since that meeting that I have come across a letter of Thomas Jefferson's, written when he was a young man to his friend Page, in which he proposes that, for purposes which he describes, they should learn Shelton's shorthand. If this could afford foundation for a reasonable conclusion as to what system it was that was most in use at that time in the colonies among clergymen and others, the value of this letter, in a shorthand sense, would be very great ; but I doubt if any such inference would be justified, or any inference at all as to the Shelton, except that it was a system still known, and held in some repute.

I have brought with me, thinking some of you might not have seen it, the *fac-simile*, gotten out in 1888 by Mr. Ford, three hundred years after the original was published, of Bright's *Characterie*, the first printed book, so far as we know, on the subject ; this reproduction being from the only copy of the original edition known to exist, that original now among the bibliographical treasures of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. I may incidentally say that Bright was not an Oxford man ; he was graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge ; he then studied at Paris, where he incurred great peril on St. Bartholomew's day ; after his return to England he graduated in medicine, and practised, and was, later, physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He published a work on Melancholy, and several medical works, but finally relinquished his practice, and took ecclesiastical orders. This *fac-*



*simile* will not bear close scrutiny as a treatise on shorthand, though it is not destitute of "system." John Willis's work, published fourteen years later, in 1602, greatly surpassed it, and is regarded as far more strictly the beginning of a scientific treatment of the subject. As you will see, this *fac-simile* has only eleven pages of printed words with the equivalent engraved characters opposite. Curiously, the "Particles" on the last stenographic page show several tick signs resembling those common in the most modern phonography, such as tick for *and*, and one for *of*, exactly like the one which Mr. Munson is understood to claim as a sign of his own and to have newly put into use. The reproducing of this first printed book on the stenographic art has been a boon to those interested in the history of its origins and its development through three centuries. Bright knew what Plutarch had said, in his Life of Cato the Younger, about Roman shorthand; he also knew the tradition that Seneca had added several thousand signs to those already devised; yet, he seems not to have sought aid from any who had preceded him; in fact, he says his work is "meere English." He did not reach the point of devising even an alphabet, of either letters or sounds; he dealt only with words.

I have also brought with me a copy of the 1835 edition of Gurney, thinking it might be new to some of you. I once owned an edition more than thirty years earlier in date; but as my 1835 copy contained the autograph of Mr. Walford, and the two editions were substantially identical, I gave the earlier one away. The statement of the present shorthand writer to the houses of parliament, London, Mr. W. H. Gurney-Salter, is, that in actual note-taking by the Gurney system the writing of the present day differs from that previous to the year 1800 mainly in this: that now greater care is taken to represent medial vowels, where the early writers thought the consonants were sufficient, and this even at the expense of eliding consonants. The later writers find, apparently, that the vowels are more certain distinguishers of the words written than are the consonants. It is hardly needful that I should add that this has for years been my own contention. I have learned but little recently, that was new, concerning this well known, much used, historic system, except this: That at the time when, late in the last century, Joseph Gurney

was reporting, officially, the proceedings in the great impeachment trial of Warren Hastings, he had in one sense a rival in Mr. Blanchard, who is said to have taken notes and furnished a record of the same proceedings for the accused,—Warren Hastings himself. I now recall an interesting statement of this other old author and writer. When years ago I examined Blanchard's elaborate text-book in the Astor Library, I saw he made the declaration that in one instance he took notes of a speech by Mr. Erskine, the transcript of 100-minutes' note-taking of which amounted to 14,976 words — only twenty-four less than 15,000, which would have given an average of just 150 words per minute. It is doubtful, however, if Blanchard and his disciples could have made any such showing of results of actual work done, as could the champions of the rival system; for twenty-six printed reports of trials, the reports the work of the Messrs. Gurney, are said to have been published between 1760 and 1792.

I have too often referred to the intimate association of shorthand, both in its early and its recent history, with legal proceedings, to be justified in making a detailed allusion to it now. I will only venture to add that it has been more marked than has been its association with legislative proceedings:—The legal association seems to have begun earlier, and at this time it is doubtless productive of far the greater voluminousness of transcripts. Concerning the legislative association, let me say that a remark to be found in Tacitus's Dialogue on Oratory is as applicable to shorthand as it was to forensic eloquence. Maternus is made to say, "What stimulus to genius and what fire to the orator was furnished by incessant popular assemblies;" and he also says that we do not know of the existence of eloquence among the Macedonians or Persians, "or in any people content with a stable government." He shows his perception of the fact that freedom to discuss public questions was a primary condition of the cultivation of oratory. You will recognize that the highest cultivation and the most extensive exercise of our own art have depended on the same conditions. Years ago, when I was corresponding with a distinguished English scholar and author, Mr. John Addington Symonds, this explanation of the existence of our art at certain times, and its desuetude at others, was suggested by me to him, and he accepted the explanation as reasonable and

probably correct. I take this opportunity of acknowledging, in a public manner, the obligations under which this distinguished scholar placed me by not only permitting me to call into requisition his own great erudition on mediæval Italian history and literature, but also by himself consulting the celebrated Italian palæographer, Prof. Vallari, on the subject of references to shorthand, or fragments of it, contained in manuscripts and documents of the mediæval period. He also sent me a copy of an Italian work on the subject, published early in the present century.

I have here also the pages of my article on *Shorthand*, written several years ago for the *International Cyclopædia*. I do not know that I could rewrite it to advantage, if I were limited to the same space. I made the effort to do justice in it to systems older than those now most largely used, as well as to those prominent at the present time in this country; in short, to give a fair history of origin and progress, not blinding myself to the fact that merit has not been confined to our own generation. Necessarily, to discuss the subject in somewhat less than four pages, though those pages were large and in fine type, great condensation had to be employed. I wrote the article, briefly as I thought, and found it necessary to cut it down at least one-third. I believe I finally succeeded in doing this without omitting any important fact that the original draft contained. I have been told that the representative in this country of a large shorthand publishing house has complained that greater space was not given in this article to an exemplification of the system which he represents. The fact is, several cyclopædia articles on this subject have not only *not* given any adequate *sketch* even of general shorthand history, but have been almost wholly confined to a description of either that particular shorthand pure and simple, or to some slightly varying adaptation of it. I hope it is needless for me to say that I should never have consented to write the article on lines so extremely narrow and misleading as those.

Now, we have with us—and to our great gratification—representatives of our art from across the lake—members of the two principal Canadian associations, and all of them known as active and very able professional writers. I know you will be greatly pleased to hear from them. When, two years ago, I had the honor to be present at the annual meet-

ing of the New England Association, I was taken somewhat by surprise by being called on for remarks immediately on the conclusion of President Yerrinton's opening address. I was at the time disposed to demur at being called on thus early; but the call had the sanction apparently of Boston custom, and few New Yorkers are bold enough to question anything so sanctioned, or sanctified, and I did not rebel, but did the best I could. You may have seen the result in the printed *Proceedings* of that association. I at least had this advantage, that I had the whole field before me, from which no predecessor but the President had culled a harvest. I have no doubt our Canadian friends have just as much reverence for a Boston custom as we in New York have; indeed, their greater distance may lend additional potency to the charm. At any rate I shall follow the custom mentioned; I in this way bring you a reminiscence, a fragment, from that Puritan land. I do this partly because I know that the rest of this company are already impatient to hear from our friends across the water. I will first call on the one who sits nearest me, Mr. Bengough, [applause] whose face and voice are already familiar to our members, and who is always greeted with heartfelt cordiality when he appears at one of our annual gatherings.

The PRESIDENT—I have a letter from Professor Zeibig, dated Dresden, Saxony, July 22, in which he regrets his inability to be present, and says:

“To prove the warm interest I take in your proceedings, which always offer valuable matter worth reading, I send the MS. of a paper prepared by myself to be discussed at the Munich Congress, on the best way to organize a parliamentary shorthand writers' office. Your proceedings always present new points of view, and are very instructive to ourselves. I am always longing for their reception.”

We are in receipt of letters from E. J. Shalvey, New York city, Miss M. L. Johnston, Youngstown, O., F. G. Morris, Springfield, Mass., and S. C. Rodgers, Troy.

Mr. Samuel J. Minard, writing from New Hampshire, says:

“Such organizations as those of stenographers must be limited in membership; hence there is greater reason that each member should be enthusiastic in their support. As poets are born not made, so I believe are stenographers. No one

who succeeds as a shorthand writer need fear competition. Shorthand may be taught to every school child; not one in ten thousand will ever put such knowledge to any practical use."

Mr. STRACHAN, an officer of the Indiana State Association, also writes in similar way.

Also, our old friend, J. G. CROSS, writes us, under date of July 27:

"The circular and invitation of the New York State Stenographers' Association I have just received and read with much interest. The delightful meeting which I enjoyed with that Association at Watkins, years ago, has remained a perennial spring in my mind, and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to again renew my acquaintance with the stenographers of the New York State Association. With my duties, and the World's Fair so near, which claims so much of my time that I do not necessarily devote to other things, it seems almost impossible to go to Niagara Falls during August; but should it be practicable, I shall take the greatest satisfaction, with my wife, in doing so. If we do not come it will simply be because it is impossible, in which event please bear my greetings to the Association."

An official stenographer, W. S. Heller, of Omaha, Neb., also regrets his inability to be present; and also our old friend of Denver, W. A. Woodworth.

Mr. JEROME B. HOWARD not only regrets his inability to be present, but, writing to our Secretary, desires that he may have a report of the two days' session mailed to him on the evening of the 25th, that he may include it in the September 1st number of the Phonographic Magazine.

I have also a letter from one of my friends of the New England Association, W. K. Armstead, who has been official stenographer of one of the Boston courts for some time.

Mr. OSGOODBY, of Rochester, also pleads excuse.

Mr. W. R. LANSING, also of Rochester, says business is too pressing.

I have also a letter from Mr. Bacon, President of the New England Shorthand Reporters' Association. He says his engagements are such that he cannot attend. The same is stated by Mr. Wright, of Boston.

Also, a letter from Mr. Smith, an official stenographer of Cleveland.

And here is something which surprises me: Our friend Demming, of Harrisburg, on our honorary list, sends a circular which he says will explain itself. I knew Demming was a genius, but I did not know he was a great agriculturist, as this circular says he is. I find he is down as a member of the summer encampment committee of some Agricultural Alliance at Harrisburg.

We have also a paper from Mrs. Burnz, left over from last year, which I think fairly belongs to this Association and should be read, and Mr. King has in his possession an admirable paper which he contributed at that time. I think that covers all I need say in reference to this correspondence.

Our proceedings have been printed, and if there is no objection, the reading of them will be dispensed with.

I think we all would like to hear from our distinguished representatives on the other side of the line, and I will first call on Mr. Bengough.

MR. THOS. BENGOUGH—I have not had the advantage of hearing the President's inaugural, and I am not certain as to what he wishes responded to. I can only say it affords me a great deal of pleasure to be present with you to-day, and I have no doubt this is shared in by my competitors on the other side of the line. I might say something in reference to matters concerning the brotherhood in the Dominion. I remember attending at least one meeting in Syracuse, away back in 1880, when the question was being discussed as to whether it might be possible to organize your Association in some way under a charter so as to have a standing similar to the legal and other professions. I may say that it is with a good deal of pleasure that I have to announce that since I met with my American brethren we have secured from the Ontario legislature a charter for a stenographic association. At a later stage of the meeting, if you so wish, I will give you an outline of the charter which has been granted to us, as I think it contains some points which will be of value to you. We hold our convention next week, and it so happened that your announcement did not meet us until some of our members, the president and others, were absent for some weeks, and I asked them, informally, however, in case I attended this

meeting if I might tender you an invitation to our meeting and extend a greeting, which they instructed me to do. Our meeting will be held this day week in Toronto. I do not anticipate a large meeting. The association is new. It takes the place of the old association, which is out of existence in an active way; it does not take the place of the Canadian Shorthand Association, which our friend Mr. Butcher represents here to-day. The Canadian Shorthand Society is still in existence, and it is the social organization which will greet you at its meeting if you should happen to be present,—the summer meeting to be held by the Chartered Stenographic Association of Ontario.

I noticed in a Niagara Falls paper, Niagara Falls on the other side, however, that visitors on this side should never fail to miss the observation tower. I did not know what kind of invitation that was to go up the tower, but I hope it does not apply to the meeting of this Association. However, it seems that the English of this Association has been so understood by some of your members—they have not failed to miss the meeting here.

**THE PRESIDENT**—Because so many of us have shared the hospitalities of the association of which Mr. Butcher is president, I take especial pleasure in calling upon him to make a few remarks.

**MR. N. R. BUTCHER**—It is always with great pleasure that I attend a meeting of this Association. Mr. Bengough refers to the fact that it is not a chartered association, and yet I have always looked upon it as the strongest organization in this country. As Mr. Bengough says, I am the president of an association in Canada, but our association is purely one for social purposes, and we have an annual meeting for fun. We say very little about work; we have a program, and we discuss business matters very little. We are always in the habit of receiving a copy of your annual proceedings, and it is a very honored book in our library.

Mr. Dunlop was called upon by the President.

**MR. N. S. DUNLOP**—I assure you it is with pleasure that I am here to-day. For many years, since you first honored me by placing my name on your honorary list of membership, I

have had a hankering to come and be with you, but something has invariably happened to prevent me. However, I made up my mind that unless the road I was connected with went to pieces to-day or to-morrow, or something unforeseen occurred at home, I would be here. I tried to get up a larger deputation of our Canadian brethren to come, but, unfortunately, for a few days I was out of town and it was impossible for me to make arrangements. However, others may come yet. I have always read with pleasure the proceedings which you have kindly sent us. I wish you the greatest success.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Smith is also from Canada, and is associated with Mr. Butcher, and I know the Association would be pleased to hear from him.

Mr. H. T. SMITH—I can assure the members of your Association that I feel greatly indebted for the privilege and honor of saying a few words to them. I have always felt a great interest in this Association. In reading your publications, which I have through Mr. Butcher's kindness, I can see that you are an Association of some consequence, when I see the names of some of the ablest shorthand writers in the world contributing papers to your proceedings; and if this Association were not of some consequence, I do not think they would take the trouble to thus write, for I think they could get enough of that in their stenographic work. We are across the border; there is a little stream that divides us; but I do not think that its waters should divide the sociability that is between us. We are striving for the same object, and that object should be a beacon light of success which should always be in front of us. A stenographer requires a good deal of determination as well as intelligence to succeed. So far as I can understand from the general public, and from what I understand to-day, from one of the gentlemen from New York, about two-thirds of the American population do not appreciate stenographic work:—we are deemed mere machines. I am afraid it is largely so on the other side. The lawyers say, "All you have to do is to just follow what we say." I fear if they should receive in manuscript just what they say, it would not look very pleasing to them:—literalness would not suit them. I think the reporters should respect the ladies. I know in Toronto they have assisted the



reporters a good deal in deftly manipulating the keys of the typewriter. I know it is very hard work to write shorthand from early morning to night, and then work at transcribing all the evening; and there the ladies assist us greatly, and we appreciate it. I again thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your courtesy and kindness.

The PRESIDENT — Mr. Smith may not be aware that among the more distinguished men on this side of the line, are two men who have come to us from Canada; one, Mr. Devine, of the official corps of the House of Representatives, and one of the official reporters located near New York city. Mr. Devine, who was born on the Ottawa, is one of the most experienced; and Mr. Bigelow, of the City Court, Brooklyn, is of course understood to be one of the ablest men we have. I personally know both gentlemen intimately, and I know both are among the very ablest of shorthand writers. One of our members, Mr. Adams, of New York, who, I think, has the distinction of reporting more patent arguments than any stenographer on this side of the line, said, in my hearing, that during the Beecher trial, where they were associated, when documents were read, Mr. Bigelow insisted on taking the documents. Mr. Adams said he always had the documents. That is an unusual thing to do. I do not know what is done in this part of the State, but I know we have stenographers in New York city who decline to take written requests to charge. I have taken them years ago, when I used to be in court more than now, as a sort of safeguard; but I have known stenographers in New York city to decline to take requests to charge. Mr. Rose and Mr. Little probably know. I only want to impress on Mr. Smith and his associates that our ranks have gentlemen from the other side of the line.

Mr. LITTLE — Mr. President, that reminds me that I desire to correct the minutes of the preceding meeting. I stated last year that I had gotten in the habit of taking short matters which were offered in evidence, such as notes, letters and documents of that character. The President asked me what I did when I had a lot of exhibits presented to me, to which I replied that I took them also "and marked them," and it is printed in our proceedings "and copied them." Of course, a man would be a fool of the first water to think that could by

any possibility be done. Well, I wrote as courteous a letter as I could, under the circumstances, to the head and front of our printing committee, and received a reply that it didn't make a continental bit of difference what I said about it, that that was what I said, anyhow.

The Secretary *pro tem.* read the report of Secretary and Treasurer Loeb as follows :

"Although observations retrospective, aside from a mere summary of the financial condition of the Association, on the part of your chief clerk and financial officer, may be unusual and not included within the scope of his authority, yet I beg the indulgence of the members while I advert to certain facts which presented themselves during the year. The prolixity, if any, I hope will meet with some mitigation, from the fact that circumstances prevent my attending the meeting in person, and chafing under the restraint I am impelled to make a few suggestions through the medium of my report which I would otherwise make verbally.

On turning over the books of the Association, my predecessor in office sent me a list of twenty-four names who were in arrears one, two and three years, and expressing the hope that I would be more successful in collecting the arrearages than he was. In accordance with the suggestion made at the last annual meeting, that the provisions of section 1, article 5 of the by-laws, be enforced in reference to such members, I at once acted thereon. As a result, six members were persuaded to square themselves on the books, and the balance, eighteen, were dropped from the roll January 1, 1893, and are no longer members. It is regretted that such action had to be taken, as among the number were some of the most prominent and honored members of this body. On notice being mailed them they gave no indication whatever as to whether they wished their membership continued or not ; therefore no other course was left than to proceed as I did.

There are now on the books forty-four active members in good standing, of which number all but three have paid the last assessment.

As you have been informed by circular letter, an arrangement has been entered into by which the members of this Association receive, free of expense, the Annual Proceedings

of the New England Shorthand Reporters' Association in exchange for ours. This arrangement went into effect with the proceedings of 1892.

In connection with this exchange it occurs to me that you might think well of the suggestion to extend the arrangement so as to include the prominent state associations, to-wit: Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. We have hundreds of extra copies each year which could be utilized in this way, and it seems to me the receipt of these numerous publications would be an inducement for many to join our association, and an incentive to many of our present members who never attend the annual meetings and who have a sort of a feeling that they are not getting their money's worth (a very erroneous idea,) to remain with us. Our sister state associations will no doubt appreciate that like advantages will accrue to them.

It has been a source of great gratification to me to note the continued high regard in which this body is held by the stenographic profession generally, as evidenced in the correspondence which has come to me during the year. We should strive to merit the same veneration in the future. It has seemed sometimes as if we but "languished and languishing did live," and that total annihilation and ultimate decay awaited us, but a little band of the faithful has kept the spark alive. All honor to them!

The indications at present all point to a very successful meeting. Success will come to us only so long as the members manifest interest enough to attend the annual meetings. But any dereliction in this respect will in great measure be palliated if your dues are promptly remitted each year to the exchequer of the Association. I bespeak for my successor a very pleasant term of office if you will heed the request.

The following statement shows the condition of the treasury, all bills contracted during the year having been paid:

"RECEIPTS.

From ex-Sec'y-Treas'r Hutchins, balance .....	\$26 40
From sale of Proceedings .....	4 50
From dues 41 members, 1892 .....	123 00
From dues 5 members, 1891 .....	15 00
From dues 4 members, 1890 .....	8 00

Total ..... \$176 90

## DISBURSEMENTS.

To Elmira Advertising Association, printing Proceedings 1892.....	\$110 40
To T. C. Rose, expressage, mailing Proceedings, cut, etc. ....	9 00
To printing and envelopes.....	18 25
To postage and express charges .....	14 65
To stenographic report, Proceedings 1892. ....	15 00
Total ....	<u>\$167 30</u>
Balance .....	<u>\$9 60</u>

Respectfully submitted.

WM. LOEB, JR.,

*Secretary-Treasurer.*

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 21, 1893."

The PRESIDENT—Supplementing that report I would say that Edmund T. Davis has sent \$10 for past dues, making our balance \$19.60.

Mr. LITTLE also presented \$3 on behalf of Thomas W. Osborne, making a balance of \$22.60.

Mr. ROSE moved that the report be accepted. Carried.

In the absence of Mrs. Burnz, Librarian, the Secretary *pro tem.* read the following report:

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

During the year 1892-3 to date, the accessions to the New York State Stenographers' Association Library have been as follows:

- From the Stenographer Publishing Company, Philadelphia, a copy each month of "The Stenographer."
- From the National Stenographer Company, Chicago, a copy each month of "The National Stenographer."
- From S. Louise Patteson, Secretary of the Ohio State Stenographers' Association, "Reports of Proceedings" for 1887, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, in three pamphlets.
- From S. H. East, Secretary of the Indiana State Stenographers' Association, "Reports of Proceedings for 1892."
- From Frank H. Burt, Secretary of the New England Shorthand Reporters' Association, "Proceedings of the New England Shorthand Reporters Association, 1889-1892."

From Wm. Loeb, Jr., Secretary of the New York State Stenographers' Association, "Report of the Proceedings for 1892."

The papers borrowed from the Library have been :

By J. E. Rockwell, Cincinnati: "Analytical Guide," by M. T. C. Gould, 1823; "Odell's Shorthand," 1869; "Orthography become Phonography," by James P. Hart; "Constitution of Pacific North-west Stenographers' Association. 1887." All of which were returned in good order.

*August 21, 1893.*

The library of the Association contained the following books and pamphlets upon December 1, 1893:

#### BOOKS AND BOUND PERIODICALS.

Polyography; or, Shorthand Made Easy to the Meanest Capacity. Auley Macauley. 1755.

The Shorthand Standard. Thomas Moat. 1833.

Historical Account of the Rise and Progress of Shorthand.

J. H. Lewis. 1816.

An Essay on Shorthand. Samuel Taylor. 1810.

A Complete Guide to Stenography. Towndrow. 1832.

The Phonographic Reader. Andrews & Boyle (2 copies). 1846-7.

Four numbers, bound, of the American Phonographic Journal. Dyer & Webster. 1848.

The Phonographic Teacher. E. Webster. 1856.

Stenography; or, A Complete System of Shorthand. Alex. H. Thompson. 1868.

The Court Stenographer. Philander Deming. 1879.

Taylor's Universal System of Stenography. 1807.

Universal Stenography. Mavor. 1807.

The Young Reporter. E. Webster. 1855.

The Type of the Times. Vol. 9. 1856. Fonetic print.

Lindsley's Elements of Tachygraphy. 1881.

The Phonographic World. Vols. 1, 6, 7. 1885, 1890, 1891.

The Shorthand News. Vols. for 1882-3.

Orthography Become Phonography. Jas. P. Hart. Fonetic print. No date.

Phonetic Shorthand — Osgoodby's Method for Self-Instruction. 1886.

The Great Moon Hoax — A Reading Book for Students in Phonetic Shorthand. Osgoodby. 1886.

Exact Phonography — A System with Connectible Stroke Vowel Signs. Geo. R. Bishop. 1887.

Systematic Shorthand. James H. Fish. 1889.

The Phrase. F. E. Morris (2 copies). 1885.

Rapid Writer. Lindsley. 1874.

Burnz' Fonetic Shorthand. Eliza B. Burnz. 1892.

Stenotypy; or, Shorthand for the Typewriter. Geo. Lane. 1888.

Transactions of the London Shorthand Congress. 1887.

Stenography. A monthly. 1886-7-8.

Reporters' Companion. Revised edition. Pitman & Howard. 1889.

The Manual of Phonography. Pitman & Howard. 1889.

The Phonographic Dictionary. Pitman & Howard. 1889.

Early Congressional Debates and Reports. Samuel Oppenheim. 1889.

The Phonetic Magazine. Vols. 2 and 3. 1856.

The Step-by-Step Primer, in Burnz' Pronouncing Print. Eliza B. Burnz. 1892.

Word Book of Phonetic Shorthand. W. W. Osgoodby. 1891.

Osgoodby's Phonetic Shorthand Speed-Book. 1891.

Stenography. Charles C. Beale. 1886.

Phonetic Magazine. M. J. Stoll, Piqua, Ohio. 1877.

Jolly Juvenile Phonographer. M. J. Stoll, Piqua, Ohio. 1878.

The Modern Stenographer. Geo. H. Thornton. 1882.

Reynard the Fox, in Burnz' Fonetic Shorthand. 1890.

Selections. A reader. Burnz' Fonetic Shorthand. 1891.

The Short-hand Sign-Book. Eldon Moran. 1884.

#### PAMPHLETS: MISCELLANEOUS.

The Analytic Guide to Shorthand. M. T. C. Gould. 1823.

The Unbalanst. L. A. Hine. Fonetic print. 1852.

Odell's System of Shorthand. 1874.

Isaac Pitman's That which Money Cannot Buy. 1876.

Isaac Pitman's A Manual of Phonography. 1876.

Isaac Pitman's Extracts. No. 3. 1876.

Isaac Pitman's The Phonographic Teacher. 1878.

Isaac Pitman's Key to the Phonographic Teacher. 1879.

- Isaac Pitman's A Compend of Phonography. 1879.  
 Isaac Pitman's Reporting exercises. 1879.  
 Isaac Pitman's Phonographic Railway Phrase Book. 1880.  
 Course de Stenographie. L. P. Guenin. 1879.  
 Die Bedeutung der Stenographie. 1880.  
 Lecture by Charles A. Sumner. 1872.  
 Lewisian System at a Glance. 1880.  
 The Dot and Dash Shorthand Reporter. 1880.  
 Legible Shorthand. Edward Pocknell. 1884.  
 Exercises in Legible Shorthand. Edward Pocknell. 1882.  
 Legible Shorthand Vindicated. Edward Pocknell. 1881.  
 Common Shorthand. Edward Pocknell. 1882.  
 Origin of Modern English Shorthand Characters. 2 copies.  
 Pocknell. 1883.  
 Biography of Tiro. Heffley. 2 copies. 1882.  
 Legible Phonography. Alfred H. Browne. 1883.  
 Lindsley's Popular Shorthand in a Nutshell. 1883.  
 Eclectic Shorthand Primer. Geo. Cross. 1883.  
 Stenographers' Dictionary. Frank Miller. 1883.  
 Light Line Shorthand. R. L. Eames. 1882.  
 Commendations of the Stenograph. 1883.  
 Manual of the Stenograph. Bartholomew. 1884.  
 The Shorthand Sign Book. Eldon Moran. 1884.  
 Autograph List of Word-signs and Phrases. Slocum. 1884.  
 Notes from my Reporting Books. Driesslein. 1884.  
 Outlines of a Modified Phonography. Bishop. 1884.  
 Handbook of Instruction for Type-writer. Underhill. 1884.  
 A course of Russian Stenography According to the System  
 of W. Stoltze. S. M. Dlussky. In the Russian language.  
 1889.  
 Three Pamphlets on Russian Stenography. In the Russian  
 language. 1884, '85, '89.  
 Catalogue of the American Exchange Club. E. N. Miner.  
 1885.  
 Scale of Prices, National Union of Stenographers. 1886.  
 Simplified Phonography. Charles C. Beale. 1887.  
 Reading Book in Simplified Phonography. Charles C.  
 Beale. 1887.  
 Sylvester's Sign Language. Charles C. Beale. 1889.  
 Synopsis of Modern Stenography. Thornton. No date.  
 Pearls from Shakespeare in Phonography. F. Pitman. No  
 date.

- Early Congressional Debates. S. Oppenheim. 1889.  
 System of Phonic Writing. Charles Morrell. 1891.  
 Our Future Life; in Burnz' Fonic Shorthand. 1890.  
 Ancient and Medieval Shorthand, translated from the German of Dr. J. W. Zeibig. N. P. Heffley. 1888.  
 A Volapük Grammar. C. T. Stillwell. 1888.  
 Supplement to Exact Phonography. Bishop. 1893.<sup>1</sup>  
 American Phonographic Journal. E. Webster. Feb., 1851.  
 National Stenographer. 1891-2-3.  
 Stenographer. 1892-3.  
 Philadelphia Stenographer. 3 Nos. 1889.  
 Shorthand News. 1884-5.  
 Phonetic Magazine. Dec., 1878, May, 1879.  
 Phonetic Educator. 17 Nos. 1881-2-3-4.  
 Phonographic Advocate (Munson). 4 Nos. 1869.  
 Phonographic Record. 1 No. 1870.  
 Shorthand Writer (Lindsley). 1883.  
 Mentor, The (Graham). Jan., 1887.  
 Browne's Phonographic Monthly. 17 Nos. 1879-86.  
 Modern Stenographic Journal (Thornton). Oct., 1882.  
 Australian Shorthand Writer. May, 1883.  
 Shorthand Review. Sept., 1885.  
 Shorthand Times (Graham). Nov., 1884, April, 1885.  
 Alethographic Shorthand Journal, Eng., July, 1883, Jan., 1884.  
 Le Phonographie. August, 1883.  
 American Shorthand Writer (I. Pitman). Feb., March, June, 1883.  
 Cosmopolitan Shorthand Writer (I. Pitman). Aug., 1883.  
 Pernin's Monthly Stenographer. Dec., 1883.  
 Reporters' Magazine. London. Feb. and April, 1883.  
 Packard's Shorthand Reporter and Amanuensis. Jan., 1885.  
 The Practical Phonographer (Munson). Jan., 1884.  
 Munson's Phonographic News. Feb., 1883.  
 The Caligraph Quarterly. Jan., 1883.  
 The Stenographer. W. B. Lord, London. Feb., 1883.  
 The Exponent. J. G. Cross. Jan., Feb., 1883, Jan., 1885.  
 Cosmopolitan Shorthander. 7 Nos. 1883.  
 Cosmopolitan Shorthander. 4 Nos. 1884.  
 Cosmopolitan Shorthander. 6 Nos. 1886.  
 The Phonetic Journal. 4 Nos. 1882.  
 The Phonetic Journal. 22 Nos. 1883.  
 The Phonetic Journal. 11 Nos. 1884.



## REPORTS OF ASSOCIATIONS.

Reports of proceedings of the New York State Stenographers' Association, from 1873 to 1892, inclusive.

Extra copies of reports of N. Y. S. S. Association for various years.

Proceedings of the International Association of Shorthand Writers for the years 1881-2-3-4.

Proceedings of the annual sessions of the Ohio Stenographers' Association, from 1883 to 1892.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Pacific North-west Stenographers' Association, 1887. 2 copies.

Proceedings of the Indiana State Stenographers' Association. 1889-92-93.

Proceedings of the third annual meeting of the Iowa State Stenographers' Association. 1891.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Michigan Stenographers' Association. 1879.

Proceedings New England Shorthand Reporters' Association. 1889-93.

Report of proceedings of World's Congress of Stenographers at Chicago, July 21st, 1893. National Stenographer, July, August, Sept., 1893.

The report was adopted.

The PRESIDENT — Mrs. Burnz writes, under date of August 22 :

*" To the New York State Stenographers' Association :*

DEAR FRIENDS:— With feelings of the highest esteem and gratitude for the uniform kindness and many special favors I have received from you, both individually and as an Association, I tender my resignation as a member of your honorable body. This, of course, will necessitate the appointment of some member in my place as librarian. The books and papers shall be sent so soon as I receive the necessary directions.

Cordially yours,

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

What action will you take on the resignation ?

Mr. LITTLE moved it be accepted ; seconded by Mr. ROSE, and carried.

Miss BALLANTYNE offered the following resolution:

*"Resolved,* That in accepting the resignation of Mrs. Burnz the Association express its appreciation of her interest in matters relating to shorthand, which has continued so unabatedly for many years." Adopted.

Mr. ROSE — Perhaps I ought to say I was one of the members on the printing committee last fall, and we asked that all papers be sent in as promptly as possible, and after some correspondence with Mr. Rodgers in regard to it, and being very anxious to have the proceedings out in good time, we came to the conclusion not to wait longer for papers. The printers could not be unduly delayed and we were forced to hurry matters. I think perhaps that was the reason that some papers were omitted last year. We expected a paper from Miss Ballantyne but it did not come — it was a paper of reminiscences — and we concluded to close the volume and those papers that did not appear in that could appear subsequently.

Miss BALLANTYNE — The reason I did not send mine was because I did not have time to finish it.

Mr. ROSE — So far as Mr. Little's remarks not appearing in the proceedings correctly, I would say that the manuscript was handed to me and I handed it to the printer. I took the paragraph referred to as one of Mr. Little's jokes, and I think those who know Mr. Little will take it in the same way. There was a gentleman from the northern part of the State, Mr. Law, who spoke about various implements being offered in evidence, and asked what was usually done with them and I think Mr. Little remarked, "I take everything."

The PRESIDENT — If there is a report from the executive committee we would like to have it. I have had none sent to me and do not know whether there is one. Is there any member of the executive committee here? I think Mr. Little is on the executive committee.

Mr. LITTLE — If that is so, Mr. President, I will render my report. Nothing has been done so far as I know. Nothing has been called to my attention, and if there had been anything I do not believe it would have been called to my attention; the printing and publishing committee would have attended to the whole business.

The PRESIDENT — I was not aware that the printing committee had so great a responsibility before, but I accept Mr. Little's statement as correct. Nominations for membership are now in order, I believe.

Miss BALLANTYNE nominated for honorary membership, Mrs. S. Louise Patteson, of Cleveland, O., and Miss Minnie L. Johnston, of Youngstown, O.

Mr. KING presented the name of Charles F. Gokey for honorary membership, or, if proper, for active membership.

Mr. GOKEY — I practise both in New York and New Jersey, but live in New Jersey. I do not practise in the New York courts, but I teach in New York and report in New Jersey.

The PRESIDENT — My understanding is that he would not be eligible for honorary but for active membership.

Mr. KING — I am quite sure the President is correct, and I make my motion for an active member.

Mr. LITTLE proposed the name of Willard L. Hayward, of Newark, N. J., for honorary membership, and Mr. ROSE that of Henry T. Smith, of Toronto, Ont., for honorary membership.

The PRESIDENT — I am requested by Mr. Osgoodby to nominate for active membership Kendrick C. Hill, of New York city. He vouches for his ability as a reporter, and on his statement I second his nomination. If you will permit me, I have two or three nominations of my own to make. I present the name of Edward J. Shalvey (who is the grand jury stenographer of New York city and county, and is also the stenographer in examinations of lunacy,) for active membership. His nomination is seconded, by letter, by Peter P. McLaughlin. For honorary membership permit me to present Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, of Levis, Province of Quebec, Mr. David Wolfe Brown, one of the official corps of the house of representatives, Washington, and Mr. D. N. Shinghaw, of Simla Hills, near Bombay, India. I have had considerable correspondence with Mr. Shinghaw, and regard him as worthy of honorary membership.

The persons named for honorary and active membership were duly elected.

The **PRESIDENT** appointed as nominating committee for officers for ensuing year, Mr. Little, Mrs. White and Mr. King.

The **PRESIDENT** appointed as a committee on place of meeting, Mr. Rose, Miss Ballantyne and Miss Emens.

The **PRESIDENT** — If there is no objection I will ask Mr. Bengough to present his paper on The Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association of Ontario.

Mr. **BENGOUGH** — I have a copy of the proceedings of the first annual meeting of our association, containing the charter and by-laws, which I will be happy to present for the library. Meantime, I will give you a summary so you may get a birdseye view of the association.

## THE CHARTERED STENOGRAPHIC REPORTERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

BY THOS. BENGOUGH, TORONTO, ONT.

**T**HIS association is the natural and necessary descendant of the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Association. It inherits to a considerable extent the traditions, aims and objects of its predecessor.

The C. S. W. A. had its origin some twenty years ago, and comprised at that time practically all the verbatim reporters in Canada. Its chief work was the securing of legislation making stenographic records a feature of judicial business in the high courts of the Province of Ontario. The system has been in successful operation since 1876, and has been imitated by nearly all the provinces in the Canadian confederation.

The experience of the old organization suggested to the promoters of the new that the objects sought might be more surely accomplished by the possession of a charter of incorporation, and a large amount of time was spent in elaborating the details of a bill, which was carried through the Ontario legislature under the auspices of one of the ministers of the Crown, Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education. This bill, as finally passed by the legislature in May, 1891, formed the special charter under which the organization performs its important functions. The Governor-in-Council appointed the first members of the Council, who are responsible for the

work of the association. Three were appointed for a term of three years, three for two years, and the remaining three for one year.

The chief object of the Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association is to secure, in the public interest, a body of stenographers who shall have given evidence of ability to satisfactorily perform the work of stenographic reporting. At the first such stenographers were allowed to register upon submitting to the Council evidence of having "regularly practised the profession of stenographic reporting" for six months prior to the passing of the act. Some twenty members were thus registered. Another clause in the act permits the Council, by a two-thirds vote, to elect as members persons who, by virtue of their general professional reputation as stenographic reporters, are deemed entitled to the privilege of membership without examination. Under this clause about a score were admitted. All others are required to pass an examination involving a shorthand speed of 150 words per minute, a typewriting speed of forty, and a general knowledge of history, geography, composition, grammar and practical transcription.

The first examination was held in March last, and two young men secured diplomas. Provision is made for another class called junior certificate holders. These must pass a prescribed test of eighty words per minute in shorthand and an examination of a lower grade in the subjects above named. In this class seven or eight young men and women obtained certificates.

A brief reference to other features of the charter of the C. S. R. A. may be interesting:

The association has power to hold real estate to the value of \$5,000, and to sue and be sued. (3.)

To increase the knowledge, skill and proficiency of its members by establishing classes, lectures and examinations; to prescribe tests of competence, fitness and moral character; to grant diplomas and certificates of efficiency; and to authorize its members to use the distinguishing title "Chartered Stenographic Reporter," or the letters "C. S. R.," as a guarantee of competency. (4.)

To organize students of stenography into a society in affiliation with itself for study and mutual improvement. (4-2.)

To make by-laws for carrying out its objects. (5.)

To fix entrance and annual fee (the present being \$2 entrance and \$3 annual.) (7-1.)

To prescribe examination fees, to be paid by applicants for examination. These are \$2.50 for members and \$1.50 for junior certificate holders. (7-2.)

The members of the Council must be British subjects, residing and practising the profession of stenography within the Province of Ontario for at least five years before the passing of the act. Five members of Council form a quorum. New members of Council are elected by ballot from the legally qualified membership.

The association has power to limit the term of all diplomas and certificates to one year, and to withhold the granting or renewing of same on non-payment of dues.

No person (other than a member of this association in good standing, or registered as such) is entitled to take or use the name or title of "Chartered Stenographic Reporter" or the letters "C. S. R." either alone or in combination with any other words, or any name, title or description implying that he is a member of the association; and any person making such unauthorized use of said name or title is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$25 for first offense, and \$100 for each subsequent offense. (14.)

A member may be suspended or expelled for misconduct or violation of rules or by-laws on complaint and after due inquiry.

All fees may be recovered as ordinary debts; and all penalties under a general act for that purpose. Penalties are payable to the association treasurer.

Power is given under the charter to "affiliate with any other association of stenographers in the Dominion of Canada, Great Britain or the United States of America, or elsewhere, for the purpose of mutual benefit to the profession. A suggestion has already been made in this connection that the Canadian Shorthand Society, which was organized some ten years ago on a non-professional basis, should be taken under the wing of the professional organization. The Canadian Shorthand Society has made an enviable record among shorthand societies; its annual meetings have generally been notable gatherings, particularly the one August 13, 1888, when the famous typewrit-

ing contest was inaugurated. The Chartered Association has now on its roll some fifty-five members and bids fair to have a useful career.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

The PRESIDENT — Members of the association and guests are informed that this paper is open for discussion, and we would be glad to hear anything that may be offered on the subject. I think Mr. Little has taken some interest in the discussion of this subject and we would like to hear from him.

Mr. LITTLE — At the time the question was presented to this association, the members did not look on the subject with very much favor. There were a few who did, but I think generally they were opposed to any such movement or the attaining of any such end. Whether in this state there would be an advantage to stenographers in consequence of that kind of an enactment is a question I am not prepared to discuss. So far as I am concerned I have now lost interest in the matter anyway, and were it of interest to me to consider the matter I do not believe it would be possible for us to form any accurate opinion as to whether it would be to our advantage or disadvantage. The trouble is that a great many people attempt to oust a man who has a good business. In some states there are official appointments, and no power on earth can get those stenographers removed. In other states there are no appointments, and it seems to me in those states it would be an excellent protection, but I doubt whether it would be of any benefit in our state. There are stenographers occupying positions creditably to themselves, and doing very excellent work and a good deal of it, and there are others who are not competent to occupy positions to any extent and are trying to occupy positions who do not succeed, because they cannot. They succeed in sticking a man occasionally, as one did me a short time ago in Rochester, but he has escaped. It is possible if we had that kind of a provision here, defining the competency of persons attempting to do stenographic work, it might avoid the possibility of such people being put upon service. I fail to come to any determination in regard to it. If it were tried and found to be of benefit, of course we could see the advantage of it, and until it is, in this state, I certainly have no opinion either way. I would like to ask Mr. Ben-

gough whether there has been any effect in the direction referred to in consequence of the regulation; whether it has been perceptible.

Mr. BENGOUGH—We have not been greatly troubled with the evil to which Mr. Little refers. Of course, the field is rather limited and the number is consequently limited. I do not know, therefore, that we have evidence that the association has had important effect; I do not know that we would have that evidence in any case, because, of course, those who are not as competent, who have been incompetent and doing a certain amount of work, are probably still doing it. It seems to me the essential point that was gained was stamping the competent men, as doctors, dentists and druggists are stamped. Stenographers must pass a certain examination before they are entitled to use the initials. Up to date the use of the initials has not been so public as to be generally understood, but by the use of the initials the secretary of a convention who wishes to obtain a stenographer in a small town where there are not many stenographers, would naturally select one who has those initials, and so selected he would be reasonably sure to have a competent man. Unfortunately, the legislature, in its unwisdom passed a clause allowing any one to register who had been six months in practice, and under that we were forced to register some who possibly would not have passed the examination test. That period is over now, and these men would naturally find their level. I think the tendency of the organization is to weed out the incompetents, and, perhaps, more important still, to tone up the whole profession. The standard of examination is very severe.

Mr. ROSE—I would like to inquire if the act prohibits all except the chartered stenographers from practising in the courts or in any of the government positions?

Mr. BENGOUGH—The act itself does not, but the term that has been used throughout, "stenographic reporting," is the basis of judgment as to competency, and in discussing that with a minister, who is a minister of the Crown and connected with the government—and our system of reporting is a government system—he stated that the interpretation of that phrase would be very strict; it would not refer to amanuensis work; it would refer to reporting of a verbatim kind. We



have a system of reporting which is strictly governmental. All our reporters are appointed directly by the government, not by the choice of the legal profession or by the judges, except for county court work outside of the county of York, in which Toronto is situated; there the judge or members of the bar may select some one, but that some one must have had the approval of the local government at Toronto before being empowered to take the appointment; consequently it is a government appointment, although not initially made by the government.

**Mr. LITTLE** — Then all who seek appointments are required to pass the examination?

**Mr. BENGOUGH** — No doubt that will come. For instance, under the clause that permits the registration of a person of known ability, the Council has registered persons who have been for a few years reporting in outside county courts and who have given evidence of their competency by reporting in those outside county courts.

**Mr. ROSE** — I doubt if we could have such a law passed in this state except as applicable to official appointments; I doubt if we could get a law passed prohibiting any one from practising stenography in the various other fields of labor.

**Mr. BENGOUGH** — Ours does not prohibit; it is not prohibitory.

**The PRESIDENT** — I presume Mr. Rose refers to references where parties send for a stenographer, as is often the case.

**Mr. BUTCHER** — With your permission, I would like to say one word as to our government allowing others to act as reporters in legal proceedings. We dare not go to the legislature and ask them to add a clause to this bill saying that no one shall report legal proceedings unless he is a member of this Chartered Association, because they might add a clause which would make rates which would be less than we are now getting. I think we are miserably paid in Ontario compared with your work in the states; but the moment we ask them to legislate to make a close organization, they are going to add another clause to say what we are going to receive for our work. It is a difficult question to determine, Our asso-

ciation, however, is doing very good work so far as it goes, but as to securing more work for the man who is a chartered reporter, I fail to see how we have accomplished anything.

Mr. DUNLOP — I would like to say a few words in reference to this question. It has been stated that we cannot go to the Ontario government and ask them for certain things. My own opinion of the Ontario government is — or the government of any country on the face of the earth — that you can go to it and ask for what you want when you have a body to go to them, and ask them; and just so soon as our profession has a footing such as the medical profession in Ontario has, the civil engineers, the surveyors, then we can go and ask for what we want and we will get it. A doctor in the Province of Ontario does not practise unless he has passed his examination; the same may be said of a civil engineer, a chartered accountant, a surveyor, a lawyer. A perusal of this act will show that it is of the widest character. When we want a teacher in the Province of Ontario, we must get one who has a certificate of the Educational Department of Ontario, who must have passed certain examinations. Of course we do not say when a man has passed the examination of our society and is able to write 150 words a minute, that that man is going to make a first-class reporter. We do not expect that every man who has passed the medical examination or legal examination is going to be the leading light of his profession, but the fact that he has passed his examination is a guaranty that he will do the work that he assumes to do. The question of rates has been discussed. I believe always that we can get the rates that our ability demands. In certain ways I have frequently employed reporters and frequently have been asked what the rate should be, and in every instance I have kept the rate as high as possible; but I know that there are many reporters, just the same as in other professions, doing work for half that which they might get, and half that which their professional capacity demands. The question of rates I think rests entirely with the man or woman doing the work.

Mr. LITTLE — I have not understood that there is any provision in the law to exclude the incompetent. In other words, it is an advertisement to the man who passes his examination, which I presume is somewhat in the line of our

civil service examination, and his having passed that examination gives him a standing in government departments as well as in other business relations. I do not see any provision which shuts out the man who may obtain employment from another simply because he will do it cheap. I do not believe the law would be of any benefit to us unless it prevented cheap, incompetent work, but then comes the question, how in the world will the young man or young woman who is beginning "get there?" How are they going to get practice? The whole thing is a mystery to me at the present time and I will watch our friends across the border with a good deal of interest. If we take the other professions referred to—the doctor, the lawyer, the druggist clerk—they are not permitted to practise in this State unless they have their diplomas. If this is a good provision, why should it not cover every person in the practice of the stenographic art, that is, why should it not provide that a person who is practising stenography cannot be a stenographer until he has obtained his diploma?

The PRESIDENT—What is the general impression among the legal profession as to rates? Does the lawyer tell his client that the reporter is getting a large fee and it is outrageous, and is that the feeling among the legal fraternity? Do they think the stenographers are getting too much?

Mr. LITTLE—It depends upon the lawyer and stenographer. Some lawyers were born kicking, and have been kicking ever since.

Mr. ROSE—I do not know as these gentlemen understand how the official stenographers are appointed in this state. They are not appointed by the general government, but they are appointed by the judges, collectively, of each district. The judges would soon find out who was competent and who was incompetent, and there would be no object for such a law so far as those who hold positions in the courts are concerned. But if such legislation should be attempted, I do not see how the question would come up in regard to connecting the salary of the stenographer with the legislation attempted, because the act would be a separate act. It would not be an

amendment of an act; it would be a separate act and have no connection with the compensation whatever.

Mr. BUTCHER—A clause in the bill brings up that very question.

Recess till 8 P. M.

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### EVENING SESSION.

The PRESIDENT—Shall we continue the discussion of the Chartered Stenographic Association? I would be glad to hear any thing further on that subject.

Mrs. WHITE—I have something on my mind I would be glad to speak of, but it is not exactly on the subject of chartering stenographers. I would like to ask what is the custom in counting folios? I am on the eve of a little trouble in that regard, and I wanted to ask if is the custom to count Q and A as words, and also as to the practice of counting figures.

Miss BALLANTYNE—I believe Redfield says "every figure necessary on a page is counted as a word." I had to count a long case once, and the parties obliged me to folio it, so I went back and counted all the folios and figures in it, and made about \$50, and they paid it, too.

Mrs. WHITE—How about Q and A? I was anxious to know about that.

The PRESIDENT—In our practice in New York we put in Q and A and count them just as we do "Jan." for January, and "Feb." for February. In one case of mine, in which there was, because of the amount of work, a large bill, the late Francis N. Bangs, one of the counsel, insisted on having the questions numbered, and with some witnesses the questions ran up into the thousands, and where they were over a thousand of course we had four words for every number counted, and that made quite a difference, and we counted the paging as well. Sometimes where a close count was insisted upon, I would let a composite number, like 1893, count the same as if written out—eighteen hundred and ninety-three. "Ninety-three" in telegraphing is counted as one word—a compound word. I would, if it was insisted on, count that as one word.

Mr. ROSE—Perhaps you noticed a short time ago, in “The Stenographer,” an article in regard to Mr. Collin, of Philadelphia. The judge went through his case and counted the folios, and it did not average but about ninety words to a page, whereas he had charged for two folios. The editor of a department of that magazine wrote to me, asking my custom in estimating folios, and I then took the ground that a man should be paid for paging his copy; that he should count every figure a word, and every Q and A a word. It takes just as long to write Q or A and make two spaces as to write an average word.

Mr. LITTLE — How many words do you count each time you shift your carriage?

Mr. ROSE — I should count four words every time. I would like to hear from our Canadian friends as to how they count folios.

Mr. BENGOUGH — I would like to ask, in that connection, if it would have made up the difference between the ninety words and 200?

Mr. ROSE — Oh, no. He made the statement to the judge, however, that he followed strictly the custom of New York city, Philadelphia, and several other cities; he did not refer to our country districts. He shielded himself behind custom.

The PRESIDENT — In New York city the words and figures are averaged.

Mr. BUTCHER — Speaking of folios, I think the best plan for a stenographer is to count the lines on a page and estimate at ten words a line. I find that in my practice I have succeeded in pleasing the lawyers in that way better than by holding them down to a strict count of every word or figure. I simply average twenty-five or thirty lines to a page and count it two and a half or three folios.

Mr. BENGOUGH — Suppose there are broken lines?

Mr. BUTCHER — Well, they are broken in nearly every case.

Mr. ROSE — I use 8x11 paper, which admits of twenty-five lines. If those lines are written solid the page will average

250 to 270 words, and, therefore, I average my pages and count two folios to the page.

Mrs. WHITE — That is what I did, and counted it as two folios in that way, and I found even on some pages with broken lines that I counted there were 238 words.

Mr. LITTLE — I would ask if Mr. Rose gets twenty-five lines on a page by writing it solid, how he also can get twenty-five lines on a page by writing it double space?

Mr. ROSE — I mean double space with each line complete; I make each question and answer a paragraph in transcribing.

Mr. READSHAW — How much a folio?

Mr. ROSE — Six cents in New York state.

Mr. LITTLE — My method has always been to estimate the folios by the shorthand, not bothering with the longhand at all. It averages very closely,—within about half a word on a page!

Mr. ROSE — I think I might estimate my folios in the same way, and they would run very nearly correct, within a word or two at least.

The PRESIDENT — If Mrs. White thinks she has all the information she needs on the point, we will proceed with the regular order of business.

Mr. ROSE — These gentlemen have not told us how their folios are estimated.

Mr. BUTCHER — In our work it is my practice to count Q and A and each figure as a word, and we use paper 8x13. In evidence work we run questions and answers together, and we never count the pages at all, we just average them 290 words.

Mrs. WHITE — We do not run our questions and answers together as you do, at least I do not. We commence them on separate lines.

The PRESIDENT — There is a difference in practice. I have seen court work in which the questions and answers were

never run together, and where answers were very short it left considerable paper that was not written on. In all my work, both legal and Stock Exchange, I have been in the habit of making it as solid as possible to save bulk. I average the folios.

Mr. LITTLE — I was going to make the remark that in our work we do not put in Q and A.

Mr. BENGOUGH — What is your practice as to indenting and putting in dashes?

Mr. LITTLE — Our reason is this, where the attorney is examining a witness he does not say "Question," and the witness does not say "Answer." An ordinary person can comprehend that the question precedes the answer. We indent the question and begin a new paragraph, but do not indent the answer; it is the same paragraph. We make five spaces and then write the answer. The answer immediately follows the question, and is a part of the same paragraph.

Mr. BENGOUGH — I might mention, in connection with this, that some years ago Mr. Demming, of Harrisburg, suggested that the counting of folios should be varied according to the matter; in other words, the rate paid should be according to the matter.

Mr. LITTLE — Fifty cents a folio I think should be charged for technical matter.

The PRESIDENT — That is correct in the estimation, I think, of everybody. In my own experience I have charged for matter a little extra difficult thirty-five cents a folio. No one has complained of my folios for a good many years, no matter how condensed the reports or how small the record. In a legal investigation, some nine or ten years ago, there were three copies made, it was a little extra difficult matter, and a charge of thirty-five cents a folio was made for the first copy and ten cents for each of the extra copies, which made fifty-five cents. I had a case some time ago which I had printed in regular law-case form. They had ordered several copies, and the charges were twenty-five cents per folio for the original, and five or ten cents for each of the additional copies. I think I had thirty copies printed, and I held the

remainder, whatever the number, and finally they wanted the remaining ones, and paid a fair price for them.

Mr. BUTCHER — Do you always get more for argument?

The PRESIDENT — Not always; but people who have had much experience in taking argument will, I think, concede that it is worth more; you cannot dictate or have transcribed as many folios of argument or discussion in a given time as you can of evidence. We used to have a man from London who was at one time one of our expert men — he drank too much, that was his weakness — and he used to say that he liked testimony that ran on like this: "Are you a butcher? A. Yes, sir, I am." Not referring to *you* (addressing Mr. Butcher,) that was his illustration. We adopted his phrase, and used to call very simple work "*Are-you-a-butcher* work."

Mr. BENGOUGH — A folio is one hundred words?

Mr. LITTLE — It is, on our side of the water.

The PRESIDENT — But it is seventy-two words in England.

Mr. BUTCHER — With reference to the charter question, speaking of the English rates, perhaps I might add that while in England last year I was taking some evidence there and met several of the English reporters. There are no official reporters in London at all. The evidence is taken by parties employed in each case specially. They told me they were expecting official reporters would be appointed, and they were opposed to it; they said that when government action was taken and a salary was fixed, a *per diem* would be fixed, and they anticipated they would make less money. They felt that if they could hold their own without the official arrangement, they would get more money out of the business.

The PRESIDENT — I was going to say that in England they do have official stenographers, but they are not, as Mr. Butcher says, the court stenographers. They have official stenographers in Parliament, of whom Mr. Gurney-Salter is the head or chief. Their business is to take the work of the committees, and their reports are official reports; and in addition to this, decisions of courts, orally delivered, are reported, including the House of Lords appeal cases, in law,



equity, and so on; and those reports of decisions make up, quite largely, the great "Reports" gotten out by the Council of Law Reporting. Those decisions are, in the main, taken in shorthand. It was stated not many years ago — and it was referred to, I think, in my 1885 State Association paper, read at the Falls at the previous meeting here — that their plan is to take the decisions in shorthand, and the reports of those judgments are the bases of the reports; and those services are paid for by the Council of the Legal Reporting, which issues those great law reports, cited here as well as there. It was stated by Justice Willes, and one of the officers connected with the reporting establishment, that except in the exceedingly important cases, the judges did not wholly write their opinions or judgments; they were delivered orally and were taken by the stenographer. Sometimes they were revised by the judge, sometimes abbreviated, modified as they chose to modify them, and sometimes they were not. It not infrequently happened a decision went into the hands of the publishers just as the shorthand writer handed it in, without any revision whatever. The length of the reports was one thing that was complained of, and it was suggested that the stenographers, very many of whom are barristers of law as well as university men, and competent to make a condensed report even though the matter did not go to the judges, should abbreviate them. In the *nisi prius* courts, I understand there are no official stenographers. That presents a subject to which I was going to refer, and that was one object of my reference to Mr. Lansing's paper on the subject of *chartered* association. There were several decisions, and I referred to one of Chief Justice Waite's in the United States supreme court, to support my contention, showing that any thing that comes under that sort of cognizance, any thing that is "chartered" or comes under a statute, comes under state control to some extent. The New York Stock Exchange, with which I have been connected for twenty-two years, is a voluntary association. It has happened that men of great "enterprise" — too great, it has been thought — have obtained charters in Albany for a stock exchange, and they have tried, or hoped, to get the New York Stock Exchange, the *voluntary* association, to come under their charter; and the New York Stock Exchange has been wise enough to avoid subjecting itself to any such conditions — to keep itself free from such

state cognizance, such inspections by politicians as would have been asserted, and remain an independent, voluntary association. My claim was that the stenographic fraternity was in very much better shape, in every way, and not in any worse shape in any way, by being voluntary, and not being brought under judicial cognizance any more than at present. I believe Mr. Little, Mr. Rose and I all agreed on those questions when we were discussing them.

If there is any thing further to be said on this subject, I should be very glad to hear it; if not, shall we proceed with the reading of papers? If that shall be considered to be in order, I think we had better begin the reading of the paper prepared by Mr. Desjardins, and, if there is no objection, I shall be willing to relieve the Secretary, at least as to a part of the paper, which is lengthy.

A portion of the paper having been read, Mr. ROSE moved that the paper be accepted and published in the proceedings, and that its reading be suspended for the present, which was carried. [The paper is published at a subsequent portion of the proceedings.]

Adjourned to 9:30 o'clock, A. M.

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## SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, *August 25, 1893.*

The meeting was called to order by the PRESIDENT at 10 A. M.

The PRESIDENT — Mr. Yerrinton, who has been president of the New England Association, and for many years an honorary member of this association, is so much out of health that he was not at the meeting of the New England Association at Nantasket last July. He is away among the mountains trying to recover his health, which had failed quite seriously. Mr. James P. Bacon succeeded him as president of the New England Association, and I would like to nominate Mr. Bacon for honorary membership.

Seconded by Mr. ROSE, and Mr. Bacon was elected to honorary membership.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Charles L. Guy,\* of whom Mr. Easton, at one of our former meetings, spoke in such complimentary terms, and who is certainly one of the ablest stenographers we have in New York city, and one of the ablest to be found anywhere, has been for some years practising law in connection with his official stenographic work, and is now one of the two law clerks to the surrogate of New York. He has entirely withdrawn from doing any stenographic work, and resigned his court position and has sent us his resignation.

On motion of Mr. ROSE the resignation of Mr. Guy was accepted, with regrets, and with best wishes for his continued prosperity.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Shinghaw, whom we made an honorary member, and who resides at Simla Hills, near Bombay, is the author of the works you saw on "Phonography in Bengali." I have written him suggesting whether he could not give us some information in reference to shorthand in India. I would ask consent that if he shall send us a paper it may, on approval of the executive committee, appear in our proceedings; and the same with Mr. Heffley, who will probably furnish, in a short time, the historical paper referred to.

Mr. ROSE moved that leave to print be granted if the papers were received, which motion was carried.

The following paper was then read :

### THOROUGHNESS.

BY M. JEANETTE BALLANTYNE, OF ROCHESTER, N. Y.

THOROUGHNESS, or a uniform completeness in all the branches pertaining to any profession or business, cannot be separated from accuracy, of which the poet Cowper truthfully said:

"To be accurate, write; to remember, write;  
To know thine own mind, write."

So, with every vocation in the busy, active lives of men and women, much depends upon the thoroughness with which his or her work is done, and this thoroughness, we are free to say, can only be acquired by constant and untiring practice. Largely, that which is attributed to luck, good fortune, and

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\*Elected State Senator in November, 1893.

the many other kindred and synonym-like qualifications which are accorded to successful business men and women, has only been achieved by unending toil, and a careful thoroughness in the preparation of each and every minor detail of the matter in hand. These men and women have gone forth to the different scenes of their toil "To labor and to wait," with the old-time motto, "What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well," firmly engrafted in their innermost thoughts and beings. This motto, although old in its phraseology, is well worth the thoughtful consideration of every student contemplating the study of shorthand and typewriting. To become a successful stenographer, either a court reporter or an amanuensis, the student must not only become proficient in taking dictation accurately, carefully and rapidly, but he must also be thoroughly skilled in manipulating the keys of the typewriter as well; for much depends upon this latter qualification in securing a position, when competent to take shorthand dictation, and consequently in holding the same when once secured. The dictator, in all probability, would not be able to read the shorthand notes of the stenographer in his employ, and could not tell whether or not they were written systematically, if the transcript should exactly correspond with the subject-matter in hand. In this typewriter age, when pen and ink, so far as the stenographic art is concerned, have become but mere echoes of the past, good typewriting is as well known to the dictator as to the stenographer, and he can tell at a glance whether the operator is a skilled workman or not.

To emphasize more fully the necessity of absolute accuracy in copying papers, for the record courts especially, we refer to a single instance which came under our immediate notice, where a very careless blunder on the part of the copyist might have been the means of instituting a prolonged litigation over the probate of a will. The error occurred in the attestation clause, and read as follows: "The above written instrument was subscribed by the said ——— in our presence, and acknowledged by him to each of us, and *we*," instead of *he*, "at the same time, declared the above instrument so subscribed to be his last will and testament," etc.

Shorthand and typewriting go hand in hand, though in reality they are separate and distinct, but from long association, however, the one seems the counterpart of the other.

The stenographic profession at large (and we must take it for granted that it does) cannot give too much credit to the invention and perfection of the typewriter, for it has not only proven itself to be a veritable blessing to the craft, but has become an invaluable appurtenance thereto. This wonderful method of economizing time and labor should be thoroughly learned, and no person practising the art of type-writing should be satisfied with anything less than the highest possible skill in the perfection of this art. It requires untiring practice to do this, oftentimes taxing the operator's patience to the utmost limit, but he should persevere and write and rewrite until he has acquired complete mastery over the machine, and can at all times do clean and perfect work, striking the keys with a firm and even touch. By this careful practice and application he must ultimately attain the perfection for which he seeks.

Shorthand is an exact profession. It is also a responsible profession. No one should set himself up as a stenographer without first being master of the art. There is an increasing demand for thoroughly competent stenographers and typewriter operators, notwithstanding the fact that much has been said to the contrary, and we are warranted in adding, "No others need apply." The profession is not now and never will be overcrowded with proficient and skilled workmen. It becomes, therefore, an important factor in the spread of the shorthand profession as to who should teach it and how it should be taught. There does not seem to be any lack either of teachers or systems. Like "Jonah's gourd" they spring up in a night, as it were, and oftentimes it would be better for the profession if, like the "gourd," some of them should perish in a night. The startling advertisements that emanate from some of these so-called colleges of shorthand read like a parody on this beautiful and wonderful art to those of us who have only acquired a knowledge of the same through patient, persevering study and long continued practice. Let truth then be the first requisite in a teacher. Second, let him be master of the art and teach it understandingly. Third, should he be a skilled, practical stenographer, so much the better. Fourth, let him be a teacher of but one system. Every practical stenographer is more or less conversant with the different systems, but could he become marked in proficiency as a stenographer, should he attempt to report in these

several different systems? It must be at once apparent to every honest stenographer that a teacher of shorthand can only be enthusiastic over one particular system. After the adoption of the chosen system, let every principle laid down by the author of that system be thoroughly taught. The student should never be inveigled into the belief that shorthand is "catching," or any knowledge will come to him, as one student said, who came to finish his course in shorthand and type-writing with the writer, when asked if he had completed the Manual, replied "Yes, all but phrasing, and that my former teacher said would come to me." Let no student of shorthand flatter himself that any knowledge of the art will "come to him" without constant, persistent study and practice. It is also true that whether the student intends to be a court reporter or a shorthand amanuensis, the teaching and practice that will fit him for either remains the same. When a student enters college is he asked what profession he intends to follow when he shall have finished the prescribed curriculum? Never. But each student must submit to the same careful training. So it follows in the study of shorthand. When he has attained a fairly good rate of speed in writing, if he intends to perfect himself in the art as a court reporter, practice in the courts is the proper course to pursue, and if he can secure a position to assist in a court reporter's office, he can find no better practice.

That so many fail to accomplish satisfactory results in this very interesting study oftentimes arises from the prevalent idea that it requires but a short time to acquire it. It seems palpably plain to the public in general, that in order to become proficient in any of the leading professions of the day, years of study must be devoted to such chosen profession, and yet, when it comes to acquiring a knowledge of shorthand sufficient to gain a livelihood by it, the masses seem to think from four to six months a *very* long time to devote to the study, and at the suggestion that it may possibly take a year to become a competent amanuensis, and two or three years to be fitted for a court reporter, open their eyes in astonishment.

One great mistake the student of shorthand often makes is that he dispenses with his instructor too soon; when he seems to have a fair rate of speed, and can take readily when writing from dictation, he is very apt to imagine that he can get on by himself. The chances are, however, that he will retrograde

in place of advancing. The rule should be to remain under the instruction of his teacher a few months longer after he thinks he is thoroughly competent to fill a position.

The very first requisite for a successful career in the shorthand profession is a good education. The idea of many that *anyone* can learn shorthand is perhaps not entirely erroneous, but can a person who cannot truthfully say that he has a good English education use it should he succeed in mastering it? Certainly not. Such aspirants should be discouraged at the beginning. We have had persons apply to us who were actually deficient in the first rudiments of a common school education; those advanced in years, and even those dull of hearing; those who had neither studied, nor had any regular habits of reading for years; those who were utterly devoid of any discipline in regard to continuous thought; those who could scarcely write their name (and possibly those who could only "make their mark,") and, by the by, the latter class are termed "shorthand writers" in one of the record courts of Monroe county.

In conclusion, our advice is, without a good education let no one dabble with shorthand; but if his education is such as to warrant him in pursuing the study, let thoroughness be paramount.

The PRESIDENT — You have listened to the paper, and I think it might be well to read in connection with it the paper that was presented by Mrs. Burnz for a former meeting, but was mislaid temporarily. It was presented by request, and is a very fine paper, although brief. Mrs. Burnz, I think, has gained some distinction by reflection of her protégé, Mr. McLaughlin, at the Buchanan trial, where much expert testimony was taken. This paper is spelled according to the five rules, and as Mr. Little has at various times expressed a good deal of admiration for and familiarity with "amended spelling," I would ask him to read it.

Mr. LITTLE read the following paper :

### TRAINING FOR AMANUENSIS WORK.

BY MRS. E. B. BURNZ, OF NEW YORK.

THE qualifications of a satisfactory amanuensis were recently summed up by the editor of the New York "Press." He said: "A boy or girl has learned to write, only when he or she is capable of expressing thoughts by means of pen and ink clearly and correctly. This includes the proper use of capitals, spelling, punctuation, grammar and the power of collecting and arranging ideas." The editor justly claimed that this, *all* this, should be taught in the public schools, so that pupils on graduation should be capable of intelligent and correct writing, even if they could not "tell all the capes on the coast of South America, extract cube roots, or spell phthisic."

Altho the temptation is great, I will not dwell upon the rock which the editor struck so squarely when he penned that last word "phthisic." It is an illustration of the orthographic impediments with which teachers and pupils are beset in efforts to attain the high degree of excellence in writing demanded by the "Press," and desired by all educators. I will proceed at once to say, that it is such excellence in the use of language and the pen which alone furnishes the proper foundation for the study of shorthand; and that those who are deficient will find that the ability to write a few hundred words stenographically and operate a typing machine, is insufficient for the satisfactory performance of even the duties of an amanuensis in a business house. It is, therefore, proper for a teacher of shorthand to question the applicant for instruction as to his or her school education: "Did you graduate before leaving school? Have you kept up a habit of writing and correspondence since leaving school?" Then, emphatically, "It is best for you to understand, at the outset, that you can use stenography only to the extent of your education and knowledge of the meaning of words."

It is upon this basis that the classes in shorthand which I have had the pleasure of superintending at the Young Womens' Christian Association, in New York city, are conducted. In September, a hundred or more young women apply for admission. Each must give reference of respectability and be at least seventeen years of age. An examina-



tion is made, first, by a dictation of fifty or more words to test the orthograpy. Then a letter is dictated to ascertain qualification as to arrangement of date, salutation, signature, punctuation and capitalization. The applicant is then required to write a reply to the dictated letter (which was constructed largely of questions) in order to show how much ability exists in the use of language and the pupil's power to construct sentences gramatically. Out of the large number of applicants, the seventy whose work is most nearly correct ar accepted. These receiv two hours daily instruction for eight months, and ar expected to giv at least two hours of home practice besides. The text-book used iz "Burnz's Fonic Shorthand." From this, with blackboard illustration, the elementary principls ar successivly masterd, and trial sentences for the purpose of ascertaining the pupil's apprehension of stenographic principls and ability to apply them, follow each présentation of a new principl or rule. To secure facility in deciphering notes, every student has to read aloud from her own shorthand all that has been written since the preceding day. The pupils often exchange their notes of trial lessons, to accustom them to read each other's shorthand writing. When principls and rules hav been masterd, and the study of contractions and frazing begins, this dry part of the study is relieved by carefully prepared and interesting readers. The pupils ar'also'required to write original sentences in shorthand containing the abbreviated or frazed words. The text-book and readers being thoroly workt up, "Humphrey's Manual" is literally turnd into shorthand from beginning to end, but not seriatim. A begining is made with the business letters. Editorials and articls from papers ar dictated, also printed legal work. Occasional talks by the teacher ar taken down by the pupils and renderd into "English" (as the girls say) on the typewriter. Work is compared and errors constantly noted. The eight months pass rapidly away. Often old pupils, who ar in positions, pay a visit to the teacher or the Association and say, "Those eight months wer the happiest I ever spent. I wish I could go thru it all again."

Such results hav been very satisfactory to the Association. It is rarely that any pupil fails of graduation at a speed of from 80 to 130 words a minute. Seldom does one fall short, unless from sickness or family trouble the attendance has been in-

interrupted. When these young women take positions they generally *keep* them.

But it is not to be expected that private schools can select pupils in this careful manner. Such schools are open for pecuniary gain. To turn away a pupil who, wisely, or unwisely, has determined to learn shorthand, is simply to send him or her to another school where the instruction may not be so good. Occasionally a pupil with poor natural qualifications and limited education comes, but there is a dogged determination to learn, and a willingness to remain under instruction until the object is achieved. Finally he or she becomes a satisfactory amanuensis, somewhere. On the other hand, a bright pupil just from the high school will sometimes enter, with mind clear and alert, willing to devote six or eight hours a day to study, and who, perchance, has a position guaranteed so soon as he or she is competent to take it. Under these conditions, such a pupil will accomplish as much in one day as is usually done in three, and at the end of a few months can do very satisfactory amanuensis work. The fraud in the advertisements of those two or three months' schools where conscientious instruction is given, is chiefly in their implied promises to make competent amanuenses in less than six months of ordinary pupils who are under average conditions. There are, unfortunately, schools which are a fraud in every particular.

But is it the teachers alone who are to blame for the incompetency of stenographic amanuenses? For one thing, the teacher of shorthand does not engage to give that previous education which should have been gained during ordinary school life, and this deficiency of education is the main cause of incompetency. Then again, can intelligent, educated girls and young men, thoroughly trained in shorthand, be expected to work for five or six dollars a week? Yet this is what our business men offer, and often refuse to pay more. Many of them have little use for a stenographer, but they like to look grand, as they straighten up, pull down their vests, and say, "Our stenographer." I had a well-educated girl, an excellent shorthand writer and typist, who took a position at ten dollars a week, and she told me that often she had not half a dozen letters to write during the week, and nothing else to do. Then, other employers "Really haven't much work for a stenographer, but we like to have a good looking girl around; it adds to the looks of the office;" and so it matters not how

deficient the girl is in spelling, punctuation, etc., so that she is pretty and pert; the employer will write his few letters himself, and get her to copy them on the typewriter because "type-written letters are all the go now-a-days;" and he will pay her five dollars a week for decorating the office with her presence, bring her fruit and candy, and occasionally take her out to lunch if she will go. Often our employment bureau receives, with the request for a stenographer, "Send a good looking girl;" and when several are sent, instead of giving each a trial, the selection for the place is made solely from the personal appearance. Is it any wonder that schools which have even become notorious for turning out incompetent amanuenses can say, "We get positions for our pupils?"

The only remedy for this condition of affairs, as it seems to me, is for the N. Y. State Association to appoint in each large city a committee to examine those who present themselves, and give certificates as to capacity in both shorthand and typewriting. Such examination should, of course, be paid for by the applicant. There will then be no need for business men, and legal and other firms who really desire to have educated, satisfactory amanuenses, and are *willing to pay a fair salary*, to be worried by a dozen or more incompetents before they can find one really good worker. They will simply require the applicant to bring a certificate from the N. Y. S. S. Association.

The foregoing remarks apply to the preparation of young people for amanuensis work. Skill *stenographers* are not the product of schools, but of years of practical experience with shorthand in the various departments of business, law, literature or legislation.

The PRESIDENT — Mrs. Burnz alludes to the giving of certificates by this association. That includes typewriting, of course, and we have never had the remotest idea of doing that. Touching the subject of typewriting, I notice one of the conditions of membership in the Chartered Association is the ability to write forty words a minute on the typewriter on examination. Under those conditions I could not be admitted if I were in Canada. I have always been in the habit of giving my notes to an amanuensis.

Mr. GOKEY — I would like to say a word in favor of the paid teachers. I think Mrs. Burnz makes a great mistake

when she says that paid teachers cannot and will not take pains with a student. I take twelve months for every student, and I receive \$80 for the instruction. I never took a student and had him take a position and keep it six months without coming back and saying that the instruction he had received was worth \$150 to him, which is Mr. Parker's price in New York city. I have tried to do conscientious work, and my assistant does the same, and the result has been first-class students and first-class positions.

The PRESIDENT — I doubt very much if any person here would concur with Mrs. Burnz that shorthand teaching should be made a specialty and differentiated from that of all other subjects. I think "the laborer is worthy of his hire," in the field of teaching as well as in any other. I am very pleased to know that Mr. Gokey insists on a year's teaching, rather than six months, which Mrs. Burnz says she thinks enough in some instances.

Mr. LITTLE — I did not intend to say any thing this morning. I am aware that I am not a teacher, never have been, and do not expect to be —

The PRESIDENT — I never have been; never taught anybody, nor tried to; never had time.

Mr. LITTLE — It is not a matter of six months, three months, or two years; it is a matter of the student, whether he has or not the ability to absorb the instruction. There are people who have attempted to study shorthand who know nothing about it, and they would not know any thing about it after years of study. It is not a matter of twelve months with them; it is a matter of whether shysters can get hold of them and get their money out of them in three months' time or whether it will take twelve months. I do not believe that you can limit it to three months or twelve months. Sometimes a man may learn it in possibly three months' time. I know of one instance, but that man studied all day, and he studied nights and days for that special thing, and "took letters" at the end of three months' time. So I say it does not depend on time; it depends on the attention the teacher is willing to give to the student, and the attention the student will give to the study. If the stu-

dent is very quick to learn, he may be able to take letters at the rate of 125 words a minute in three months' time, but so far as taking every thing and any thing that comes along it takes a life-time, and the longer the stenographer lives the more he will find out he cannot do it, and the more he will doubt every man who says he can take every thing that comes along. He will find himself in a position, time and time again, where no man on earth can do it. I remember discussing the subject of speed, saying that there is no man alive who can take 250 words a minute, with absolute accuracy, for five consecutive minutes. I have had the statement sent me time and time again that it can be done. It is not true. Any man knows that no matter can be understood, with absolute accuracy, at the rate of 250 words a minute for any length of time. A man who writes shorthand at a very high rate of speed for one minute, or five minutes, remembers what he can and guesses at the rest, and furnishes an incomplete report, is not a good stenographer. If he can read it for the moment simply it is not writing shorthand. Writing shorthand is putting down characters that you may read so long as you live, and that your successors may read. That is writing shorthand! It is not writing 500 words per minute. It is putting down on paper what men say; it is putting on paper what can be read by the amanuensis when you are dead and gone, if it be fifty years hence. There is a mistake in teaching shorthand. It is that people think they must first get speed. Now, speed is a subsequent thing which comes to the stenographer. Accuracy is the first thing, and then comes speed; but for the practice of speed a man never ought to be pushed for it in his study of shorthand. Teachers in shorthand are urging pupils to phrase; authors are putting in their books, "Just as soon as you get the elementary principles of this system of shorthand into your noddle, go to work and phrase." The most infernal mistake that was ever made by authors and teachers of shorthand! I will guarantee that there is not a rapid writer in the United States who when following a rapid speaker, can by any possibility phrase to any extent. There are old stereotype phrases which almost all stenographers use, which represent words which coalesce as easily as water and whisky, and that is the phrasing which can be done with readiness, which does not retard speed, and with which you must deal; but for the instructions which are

put out by Pitman, Graham, Munson, and all these other authors—Osgoodby as well; I am not sure, but our friend Bishop--do you acknowledge it? If you don't, you will have to.

The PRESIDENT—There is a stenographer in Cincinnati, you must remember.

Mr. LITTLE—Yes, Jerome B. Howard, a Pitmanite, and D. L. Scott-Browne is another, who stands on his head for the purpose of writing an upward stroke heavy. All these teachers say, "If you want to make speed in your work, unite your words in order to do it." All the teachers from Maine to San Francisco say, "Just as soon as you learn the principles of shorthand sit down and learn to phrase; you will have to if you wish to write rapidly." I defy any one to do it to any great extent in rapid work. Mr. Cochran, of New York, writes *en-tee* for not, and does not phrase much of any.

The PRESIDENT—Cochran, by the way, was one of your intense Graham writers.

Mr. LITTLE—Even he could not read "*plent-met*" for *pleni-potentiary of the Almighty* unless he remembered what it was. Cochran commenced to expand and wrote the open system—

The PRESIDENT—Which was also the open sesame to him.

Mr. LITTLE—I make the statement, without fear of successful contradiction, that there is no one man in the United States who is to-day writing Graham's system of shorthand, pure and simple. I do not believe I am wrong. I used to write Graham myself.

The PRESIDENT—So did I.

Mr. LITTLE—I know you did. Mr. Rose may shake his head at me as much as he chooses, but he does not write Graham. He may think he does, but he does not.

Mr. ROSE—What do you call the system I write?

Mr. LITTLE—It is Graham modified by Rose! Every single thing you have discovered in Graham's system which has actually dumbfounded you in your attempts to read, you have discarded, haven't you? Own up.

Mr. ROSE — I have expressed myself fully upon this subject at other times and places, so it will be unnecessary for me to reply to brother Little.

Mr. LITTLE — There is no use asking him any more, because by his usual manner he is admitting it. I see I am not wrong. I say Graham has published a system no man alive can write as published, or if he does, he cannot by any power on earth or supplied him by heaven, read it, because it is so contracted. But I am not here to discuss systems, and have already said more than I intended.

The PRESIDENT — I think we are rapidly progressing toward completing our business. But in reference to Mr. Cochran, I reaffirm what Mr. Little says. When I first knew him — and I have known him a good while — he helped me, for a time, on my cases, — he was a close follower of Graham.

Mr. LITTLE — Was he not the closest; closer than Flowers?

The PRESIDENT — No, I think not; I think Flowers was the closer. I confess I was once quite a close follower myself, but sometimes in discussion, for example, in old Erie cases, where Mr. Devine and I worked together, they rather "crowded me out" of some of those refinements, or crowded them out of my reach; and Mr. Cochran got still farther away from the Graham system, I think. I think Cochran now writes considerably more extended than Murphy; he generally writes with a pencil, too. He sometimes writes a very expanded shorthand; in fact, it looks very much like Mr. Dement's notes written on the speed contest. I pointed out to Mr. Dement that one of the reproduced pages, published after the first contest, contained only one peculiar phrase known to Graham, and that was "I would;" the rest was very old phonography indeed. I suppose every one knows that there is very little in Mr. Graham's system that had not been suggested before Mr. Graham wrote. He *systematized* well. It is curious, in looking over the old systems of shorthand, to discover that things we think are new, are often found to be ancient. The S-circle is a very venerable affair; it was used previous to 1700.

Mr. LITTLE — It was used by Marcus Tullius Tiro; it was used as a stenographic character.

The PRESIDENT — Of course, Farthing used it, and Mason and Gurney used it, as we all use it now, as an alphabetical sign for S. The H-tick, which Graham uses, and others, is an old affair; that was used, I think, by Lewis. I found it long ago in one of the old books, and I think it was Lewis who used it in about 1815.

This question of accuracy, which Mr. Little has alluded to, is so very important that at the expense of being personal I think I will illustrate it, and the illustration will be quite appropriate, in view of what has been already said. You will perhaps remember that at the first "speed contest" that Mr. Dement had, at Alexandria Bay—the first exhibition—we had a committee of three, and I had the honor of being chairman of that committee; Mr. Easton and Mr. Thornton being with me on the committee. Mr. Dement wrote, you remember, and read back, and we took a record of the reading. I think there were two or three lines which he left blank entirely; he did not get started at the beginning; so he had to let the whole go; but later he got that; that is, after our report had been made and our meeting was adjourned. Later, he deciphered that, and thought he could do better, on the transcript as a whole—could make a better total showing, and he gave to us, in the evening, another transcript, a typewritten one. But the showing was no better; my recollection is it was not so good as where he read back to us at once, for, while he had made some corrections, where he before could not read, there were more where he succeeded in reading first, where on the second reading he failed. It was perfectly clear to me, on examining those reproduced notes—I examined them more closely than those original notes which I examined at Alexandria Bay—that no one could take those notes, not even Mr. Dement himself, when they should have lain by for a time, and make a correct transcript; and I criticised his calling it "Graham" shorthand, where on that whole page, as I said before, there was only one phrase which was peculiarly a "Grahamism."

Any further remarks on this subject we shall be very glad to hear. We would be very much delighted to hear from our Canadian brothers, and also from Mr. Readshaw.

Mr. B. W. READSHAW — I would say that for years I have been practising in the University of Buffalo, and I found in



medical work that I could not use Graham's contractions; if I got more than four words on a line I was doing well. I had to write a full, free hand. I found it was necessary to cultivate a very easy, flowing, careless hand. I could scarcely ever write a phrase that I could feel confident I could read when it was "cold."

The PRESIDENT — I remember reading an interesting Indiana State Association paper, by one of their members, in which this subject was touched upon, who was for years with Mr. Murphy, at Washington. Being ambitious to write briefly, he was in the habit of experimenting on brevity, and once he called Mr. Murphy's attention to one word that stretched very far across the page, asking if that was not a pretty long *form*, to which Mr. Murphy replied that it was a very long *word*.

Mr. ROSE — I think a stenographer in extensive practice falls into the habit of writing a more free and easy hand, and however close to system he may write in the beginning of his practice, after a time adopts peculiarities of his own. I think that Mr. Graham's system, if written down to the finest point taught in his hand-book, is very exhausting both to the mind and muscles. The short strokes, the hooks, the frequent angles and reversals of direction of motion, produce much friction and require more nerve force than the free and open style adopted by most reporters. But as to legibility and ease of reading I must speak in favor of his system. I have had occasion during the present year to refer to minutes taken in 1871, and to read a number of pages in court, and while I was rather nervous in those early days, and wrote a beginner's hand — a little tremulous, too, I can notice — I was able to read them without difficulty. While I never have learned any system but Mr. Graham's, I perhaps have modified it to a certain extent, or perhaps I should say I do not go to the extreme point of abbreviation as laid down by him.

The PRESIDENT — If you will permit me to add one thing more, there is this to be said in favor of Mr. Graham: he has been very systematic and scientific. Mr. Munson is, too. There are authors who, I think, fail in those respects; they take a character haphazard; they fail to lay down and follow definite principles; they construct unscientific forms, and they phrase unscientifically. Now, Mr. Graham escaped some-

thing of that. There was *system* with his writing, whether you could follow it in all respects or not. That he had a scientific mind and carried *system* into his work better than some authors have done, I think will be conceded.

Mr. ROSE — I think Graham's system, so far as I can compare it with others, puts more work on the head. If a man is so constituted that his mind works rapidly enough to grasp a sentence, and instantly apply the rules of abbreviation to the fullest extent, he can write Graham's system "down fine." If he cannot do that, if he has to rely upon his arm, and fingers, and depend on muscular quickness rather than alertness of mind, he cannot do it.

The PRESIDENT — One other remark was made in reference to rapid work, and I think in connection with Mr. Dement, where his characters were expanded, enlarged and extended, as more rapid work was done. In my own experience I find this to be exactly *not* the case. If I am taking a discussion that is very rapid, and where there is a great deal of cross-firing, if my mind is working fairly well, my tendency is to write more closely and minutely than if not crowded at all. I have talked with a good many, and they have examined my notes on this point. The habit has no merit, or demerit, that I know of; perhaps you would call it an *idiosyncrasy*.

Mr. LITTLE — I was talking with Mr. Dement, at one time, about writing with a pencil, which I have always been down on, and he said he had some of his brother's notes written with a pencil thirty-two years ago, which are just as legible to-day as then. I told him if they looked like his own notes I would agree with him.

The PRESIDENT — I agree with Mr. Little in regard to the use of the pencil. If I am writing as rapidly as I can get the words down — where there is cross-firing, and the sentences come in very loose shape, — I soon tire, with a pencil, having to bear on in writing, but with a pen, and lightly touching the paper, I do not get fatigued with even four hours' rapid work.

Mr. N. R. BUTCHER — I learned Graham's system when I was pretty young. It took me a long time to learn the phrases and signs, and it took me still longer to unlearn them and go back and write words by themselves, so I could read what I

had written. In our courts we have had some trouble lately by the judge ordering the stenographer to take down what is read before the trial. The counsel will sometimes read two or three pages, and the reporter is expected to take it down. I took occasion to call the attention of the judges to this fact, that no matter what reporters said, shorthand was absolutely unsafe in such cases, and by far the best evidence of what was in that examination was the examination itself. Perhaps, in nine cases out of ten, where the examination was read, it was utterly impossible for the reporter to take it down unless he would stop and himself dictate it to the reporter. I said, for one, I would not do it, and I thought that any stenographer who said he could take it was simply bamboozling him. I agree with Mr. Little as to phrasing. If I am pressed for time and want to keep up with rapid discussion I have got to write almost every word by itself, and especially for facility in reading it.

The PRESIDENT — I think we will have to instruct lawyers and judges that there is a vast difference in taking oral work and that which is read. Some time ago I called on Judge Van Brunt, with a friend who desired an appointment in the New York Supreme Court, and the judge spoke of one very peculiar thing, as he thought, about the stenographers in his court, observable when he was trying cases at *nisi prius*. He said when he was charging the jury, he often, in order to exactly follow some previous decision, would take a report and read, so as to make no mistake in his instructions, a paragraph or more. He said that invariably after reading a few lines the stenographer would look up, and he knew the stenographer was aware that he was reading and not speaking orally, and he was not ingenious enough to disguise from the stenographer the fact that he was reading.

Mr. LITTLE — The mere fact that you know a man is reading to you will knock out about twenty-five per cent of your speed, simply because you are not accustomed to take from reading.

Mr. ROSE — One judge whom I report is a rapid speaker, but he articulates remarkably well, and I have but little trouble in reporting him; but when he reads requests to charge, I make it a practice to take the first few words of

each request, and then, of course, take whatever he charges upon each request. He told me that while holding court in New York last winter, I think it was, he noticed the stenographer raising his hand toward him once in a while, and he concluded after a little that what he meant was to "slow up," and so when the stenographer would raise his hand he would slacken his pace a little.

**THE PRESIDENT** — I have heard some of our stenographers in New York say — one of them, Mr. Crosby, who had experience in the United States Senate for a good many years and then came to New York, of whom one of my lawyer friends said that he wrote almost as easily as breathing -- that they would not take written requests to charge. Mr. Crosby said he would take the beginning and the end, but declined to take the entire request.

**MR. ROSE** — Requests to charge are always accessible to the reporter, and he can take beginnings and endings and make no mistake in applying the remarks to the right request. In fact, the judge generally hands them to me afterward.

**MR. ROSE** read the following paper :

## THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF STENOGRAPHERS.

BY CHARLES F. KING, OF GLENS FALLS.

**T**HIS is certainly an important subject. The future, and possibly the existence of stenography as a profession, may be determined by the care and fidelity with which stenographers are educated and trained.

In the matter of education, a special preparation therefor, by way of elementary study, should be regarded of as great necessity as fitting for college or the preliminary work required of those who go into the profession of law, medicine or the ministry. It is a recognized fact that the competent stenographer must be versed in all branches of knowledge. In this view his education must be even broader and more comprehensive than that required in any of the professions. He must possess some knowledge on all points of inquiry indulged by any professional man. And this should not be confined to a mere smattering; it should embrace all element-

ary principles, those constitutional axioms upon which all branches of study are founded, though it may not reach to any material elaboration. In short, the stenographer needs a liberal education and cannot be successful without it.

The training of stenographers is equally important, and the means used and the ends to be attained are possibly more likely to be misunderstood. Schools for the training of stenographers should be similar in their equipment and in their management to the institutions which are now established for the fitting of young men for the professions. The character of the work which a stenographer is called upon to do requires not only the best of education but the most thorough training. His fund of information must be practically inexhaustible and his skill must be unquestioned. There is no range of human thought which he may not have to photograph, and he is sometimes placed in positions of the highest responsibility. To him is confided the debates in the highest legislative bodies of the land on subjects of state and national importance; on his proficiency often hangs the very lives and fortunes of people in our courts of justice, and to him may be brought the profoundest disquisitions of the theologian for transmission to paper and for future record. His may be a distinct profession, but its requirements as to education and training are similar to any and all of them, and in a degree it shares in their united resources.

It is no doubt true that the phonographic neophyte can, with great advantage, be put at the study of this science when still young; that is, he may profitably acquire the rudiments of sound writing early in life and familiarize himself with the characters which represent the elementary sounds of human speech. He should be taught first that phonography is the representation in visible form, as nearly as may be practically, of the sounds produced by the human vocal organs in the act of speaking. This it is, both in a scientific and an artistic sense. It is possible, of course, to so represent words by arbitrary symbols alone as to be able to report them; but this would confine the stenographer to the incident mechanical labor, and such an art, practised purely as an art, could never aspire to the dignity of the name of profession. The professional stenographer must learn the science of phonography and have it taught with all the breadth which intellectual culture can add to it in order to attain to the ideal.

Both the education and training of stenographers is as yet in an embryonic state. Schools for the acquirement of the art teach how to write shorthand as far as they go with a certain degree of success; but no attempt is made to compel or even advise a suitable preparation, and the "finishing up" of the student seems to be guided by that familiar quotation from Shakespeare, "All's well that ends well." All that seems to be sought is to get the pupil so that he can "take," and this kind of teaching must be to an extent superficial. No one who has become able to write shorthand without due preparation and without thorough and sufficient training, can aspire to eminence in that profession or indeed ever hope for any great proficiency. The foundation is insufficient and the superstructure faulty.

Besides, judging from the advertisements, there are many schools pretending to teach shorthand which are positively doing injury both to the profession and to the pupils who attend such places. It is nonsense to try to make oneself or any one else believe that phonography or shorthand of any kind can be easily or quickly mastered. Ever since the time of David Copperfield people who have tried to learn this science, and have gotten over the dangerous little learning, have found and will invariably tell you that it is an exceedingly difficult task even for the brightest minds to gain sufficient proficiency to report accurately a moderate speaker for any length of time, and then read the notes. It is perhaps impossible that human speech can be reported verbatim as fast as the voice can utter it, as when reading from a prepared page; that is, literally and legibly to record every articulation. But there are few extempore speakers whose thoughts an accomplished stenographer, one who has been educated and trained as he should be, cannot transmit to paper in the language of their utterance.

The first requisite in the training of stenographers is to make them write slowly. This seems to be the hardest thing in the world for them to do. The characters are geometric, and are, therefore, capable of being made theoretically accurate; as it were, according to square and compass. They should be made, at first, carefully and with an eye to their slope, their shading and their length, as in freehand-drawing, and they should be practised in that slow and laborious manner long enough so the pupil can make any elementary character or

combination without hesitation and with ease and accuracy. This is the only true foundation of a correct and I may say of a graceful style, for, by a continued perseverance in this, the student will soon find that the forms come easier and easier, and unconsciously he gathers strength and speed. Then comes naturally, and if not naturally it should be followed until it is acquired, the ability to join forms in an artistic style, and this once gained becomes a passion with the true lover of phonography. He takes as much delight in the beauty of his forms as any one does in the architecture of his house. The curves and circles, and hooks and loops flow from his pen in graceful combinations and in artistic variety, the very angular strokes combine to make easy and natural joinings, and the writing becomes a "thing of beauty and a joy forever." But this can only be attained in the majority of cases by persistent, steady, honest practice. There is no royal road to this kind of learning, as those who have traversed the way will affirm.

Those who read the Phonographic Magazine will undoubtedly have seen there a statement from high phonographic authority, Commissioner Wm. T. Harris, of Washington, to the effect that dictation is not the best way in which to obtain speed in shorthand writing. That a better way is to take some pages of shorthand written in the best of the reporting style, and write those pages, sentence by sentence, fifty times until they are learned by heart, and then to write them again, sentence by sentence, fifty times from memory, at the end of which more proficiency will be attained in speed than by the ordinary dictation method. This is analogous to the mode of the master of music who made his pupil play one piece over and over again, what seemed to the pupil an outrageous number of times, for the purpose of acquiring skill in a general way. But the idea has in it a wealth of practical utility. The mastery of one part or thing, beyond the probability, if not possibility, of loss, in shorthand as well as in music, adds wonderful strength and prepares the way to excellence in all works of that same kind, until added to gradually, steadily, and hence surely for any length of time, ends in a sound and durable proficiency. One must make the skill his own, a part of his acting movements, so as to become mechanical if you please, as long as the mechanical part is confined to the art of writing, and does not

dwarf or impede the intellectual powers which are brought into play by the study and elaboration of the science.

The student ought to begin the study of phonography with at least what is known as a common school education; and if not that, it should be acquired simultaneously with the rudiments of the phonographic study, and both should continue until the student of phonography has also become a scholar.

The PRESIDENT — Will you discuss this paper? Any new light on the subject will be gladly received.

Mr. BENGOUGH — A few thoughts occurred to me during the reading of Mrs. Burnz's paper, and I regret I did not hear Miss Ballantyne's, which I understand was in the same trend. The feature of Mrs. Burnz's paper which impressed me was as to the preliminary examination—that one of the preliminaries of her pupils is a test in English. That is a very trite thing to say, perhaps, but it is a very important thing when we think of it. There is not a shorthand college that I know of in Canada, and I think I know them quite well, that has yet mustered up courage to make a test as to education of an applicant as a preliminary to entering upon the study. I quite understand the reason why this is a difficult matter; I think Mrs. Burnz hints that. If the pupils could not pass the preliminary examination in one college the proprietors know they could go to another college and obtain admission. Therefore, it requires some moral courage to make tests. Mrs. Burnz's teaching in an institution which I understand gives the tuition freely, or at least at a nominal figure. I do not understand she teaches without remuneration. They are not in competition with the business colleges or shorthand colleges. I think, however, this is the most important point that could possibly be made in this connection, and if this Association would give a pronouncement, even a moral bias in that direction, I believe it would do a deal of good. I am satisfied if that test were made preliminary, the character of the students who are going through the mill at the present time would be very materially altered. I feel sure of it. Of course there are schools that would always take the pupils no matter what their qualifications might be, but there is a class of students who should be dissuaded from studying shorthand, no matter what they pay, and I was, therefore, much interested



to hear that Mrs. Burnz requires pupils to pass a preliminary examination. I listened with interest to the discussion that branched off as to accuracy, to hear a good word said for the Isaac Pitman system, but I listened in vain. Isaac Pitman does not seem to be known on this side of the water. I have not heard his name mentioned. When you speak of the "Pitman system" of course I understand you to mean Benn Pitman. In my opinion — a very humble opinion and very deferentially expressed — Isaac Pitman's system has points over Benn Pitman's particularly. As to the strong point that you have been making about the variation of the Graham system, I would say that all who have spoken to-day as to the disadvantages of using Graham's contractions, and have adopted the modified form, what might be properly called the open system, as Mr. Little remarked, have approached most exactly to the Isaac Pitman basis. In other words, if you took up Isaac Pitman's system — I am not speaking of the defects — I do not like his text-books — as practically worked out, you would have a system which would answer all purposes of speed and legibility combined. That is the way it strikes me. I do not find persons who have studied the Isaac Pitman system, studying it thoroughly, who have abandoned it for something else. There are some; but the great mass of people who have studied Graham's system have had to abandon that system from force of pressure, requiring speed and legibility at the same time. I am speaking thus about the Isaac Pitman system possibly because we are nearly all Pitmanites across the water; possibly because we are related to England in a friendly way. I have said what I have because the Isaac Pitman is a practical system. The text-books are not practical, in my opinion, because they make the pupils go through with a great deal of unnecessary work.

In nearly all the papers I have ever heard or read on the subject of teaching phonography or stenography, the intimation is that the students are making the efforts to become verbatim reporters. Mrs. Burnz avoids that by speaking of them as amanuenses, while Mr. King would imply that the students being trained are to be verbatim stenographers. That is not the mission of the shorthand schools. They are not training stenographers. They are training amanuenses. That is all they attempt to do; that is all they profess to do. If I were advising a friend who wished to be a verbatim re-

porter, I should not say go to a school but rather go to a professional stenographer, if that stenographer will personally or by proxy teach you the principles. Without the teaching I think that plan would be defective, but if the teaching could be combined with the practical work in a stenographer's office, that is the ideal system; but the school system is not.

Mr. GOKEY — I would like to say that right here stands a practical, everyday shorthand reporter. I teach my students entirely from experience, observation, reading, thought and principle. With me theory is a golden dream; practice, a stern reality. I claim that no teacher has the right to stand before a class unless he is a practical reporter and acknowledged as such by his clientèle, in every sense of the word. You might just as well say that a physician has the right to practise because he has stuck his nose inside the lids of a medical work. That does not constitute the physician. He must be a man of education, of reading, of research, and a man capable and thoroughly reliable in every sense. Then and then only will you welcome him at the bedside of the sick relative. And so I claim for my school, and for my system of teaching, that one thing: that we are nothing but practical, everyday shorthand men and women, teaching those pupils. From their ranks have sprung, and will spring, good reporters and verbatim reporters, doing work in New York city on some of the leading dailies, and in the courts of New Jersey. I never had any faith in a teacher who is not a reporter, for I say without the practice the teacher has not the knowledge and experience to instruct the student in avoiding the pitfalls that will certainly come to every student who begins shorthand as a study and typewriting as a profession.

Mr. DUNLOP — I think it is generally understood that the mere ability to write shorthand as an amanuensis, and particularly as a reporter, is not all that is required. I know of one office where the stenographer is a very fine person, able to write shorthand rapidly and able to transcribe very fast, but if you read a few figures, \$25, \$32 and \$48, and asked how much they aggregated the party would be completely at sea, and could no more be trusted to add them up, and send out the letter containing the statement without revision, than to calculate the distance from Niagara Falls to the moon by the shadow that it would throw on some object. A stenographer,

an amanuensis, I think, should be well up in nearly every thing, especially in every thing relating to the particular branch of business he is engaged in. Mr. Bengough made a telling point, I think, in regard to schools not making verbatim reporters. Their business is to make amanuenses, competent amanuenses; and the amanuensis should have a special knowledge of a great many subjects, every thing that arises in connection with the business that he or she may be engaged in. I might mention, for instance, book-keeping. A stenographer should know something about book-keeping, and he should know something about an account. He need not be able to get out a trial balance or to average accounts, or to do the work of a chartered accountant, but he should know the difference between the credit side of an account and the debit side, and appreciate what "balance" means. Many stenographers would be dazed if you talked about "credit balance" and "debit balance." A stenographer should know how to write a note, and not oblige the employer to take it from him and write it out himself. When the green stenographer sees a bank deposit slip, he does not in all cases know what it means. He should know something about that, and if he does not, the business school, I think, should teach him. The same in regard to printing. He should have some idea about how the letter-head that he uses should be gotten up. In short, he should know about as much of the business man's business as the business man himself knows, and the sooner he knows that the sooner he will get what he is aiming at. It will be worth dollars and cents to him. Anyhow, it will be worth dollars; let the cents go. An employer will sometimes ask a stenographer what he thinks about this or that thing, and the stenographer will whimper and is afraid to express an opinion. He should not be afraid. Let him express it frankly. Probably the employer has given it some thought, but every person should have some opinion, and be not afraid to express it. If an employer can talk to his stenographer in that manner, he is getting along toward the goal he is working for. I think, too, that stenographers do not take proper notice of current events. The newspapers contain the history of the world up to date, up to the last moment that the form is locked up and put on the press and the newspapers are thrown off. The letter-books of any business house contain the history of that business up to date, whether it be success-

ful or unsuccessful, and the stenographer who would gain a thorough knowledge of that business has only to take the letter-books and read them and keep them studied up.

I was much interested in Miss Ballantyne's paper. For years I have read articles from her pen, and I have been pleased to meet her. She made a splendid point as to stenographers taking pride in their work. I long ago adopted the practice (it was original with myself and I do not know whether anybody here follows it) of fathering my own mistakes and being responsible for them. Any paper or document I write on a typewriter is inscribed with my own initials, N. S. D., by holding the carriage and forming a monogram on the page. If there are any mistakes I will be responsible. The reason I adopted that system is that if you are in an office where there are other stenographers, something may occur and you may be blamed for something very serious, but you can always tell if it is your work if you have a mark on it. The same with other work, be it affidavits or what not, if it is compared the copy that I hold has "N. S. D." put on it, and if I were sleeping while I held it, it shows that I would be responsible.

Then as to verifying your work. Many hear the name of a certain person a letter may be dictated to, or to whom some car may be shipped, say, and never take the opportunity of verifying the name or address. The stenographer, whether he be an amanuensis or reporter, as was said yesterday, should have a proper conception of his own abilities. He does not need to be a windbag, he does not need to be boastful, but he or she should foster dignity and be above taking a drain-digger's pay for doing work that has cost him time and money and years of hard labor. A few years ago a man struck Toronto who did not need to "stand on his head" to write a stroke heavy. He advertised to teach a light-line system of shorthand in six lessons or six weeks, I do not remember which. I think he is in Toronto since. Our institutions in Toronto have been spoken of here always as hospitable, etc., but I may say our "hospitality" does not extend to windbags. We invited this gentleman to our Association meeting to explain his system, and although you may think we are very hospitable, I think that evening that man was handled without gloves. He boasted that he could teach shorthand in six lessons, or six weeks — but it could be taught in a very short

time — and positions were plenty for such people. Any person who dared say shorthand could not be taught in six weeks or six lessons was, in common language, a liar, and that statement went out in the papers. I was taken to task for some remarks I made. However, light-line systems I believe are still being taught in Toronto, but we have here some of our reporters who have not yet been replaced by light-line men.

I think a stenographer should study the weaknesses of his employer, study his peculiarities and make the best of them. It is the way down into the employer's pocket, and we are all trying to get there, no matter whether we are amanuenses or reporters. I think our American brethren have got down into the pockets a little further than we have. It is our native modesty that keeps us out of our employers' pockets.

**The PRESIDENT** — Still you are ambitious ?

**Mr. DUNLOP** — Yes, we are ambitious, and I think it would always be of immense advantage to attend your meetings. I feel more avaricious since I have been here. I have no doubt that our Canadian brethren who have been here will go back with vows strong to dig deeper into the pockets of the money-bags. The lessons we have learned here have been profitable in many respects, and I have enjoyed the meeting in every way.

**Mr. BENGOUGH** — It occurs to me if we were all a little more precise in our terms, it would be better. For instance, a man comes to me and asks how long a time will it take him to learn shorthand, and I say, "It depends on how much you want to learn;" and he says, "I hear it will take two years;" I say it will. Possibly they say they want to go into an office, and I say it will take a few months; then they say they want to do reporting work, and I say it will take a few years. Supposing we call those who wish to go into offices, amanuenses, and call the others stenographers. We have endeavored to do that and fix it in the literature of our language, in our act which we entitle "The Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association." Those young persons who can write eighty words a minute and pass the test of amanuenses are called "Junior certificate amanuenses." We do not use the word "stenographers," you see. They are not stenographers,

Stenographers are those who can take verbatim reports, the others are amanuenses.

The PRESIDENT — One word as to what Mr. Bengough said as to systems, in explanation : On this side of the line I think we always regard the Isaac Pitman, so-called, as fundamental ; the others as modifications. I do not regard the Jerome B. Howard as the most perfect Benn Pitman system ; the most improved Benn Pitman system I understand to have been almost an exact reproduction, so far as the signs are concerned, of the Isaac Pitman books of about the time when the first Benn Pitman edition was issued. Of course, we do not go back to the question of how much Mr. Pitman got from Harding, or anybody else, or how much his collaborators did ; we take the *books* of that time.

If we have no more discussion, the presentation of reports will be in order. I will call for the report of the committee on place of meeting.

Mr. ROSE — The committee recommend that the next annual meeting be held at West Point.

Mrs. WHITE moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

Mr. ROSE moved a vote of thanks to the proprietors of the International Hotel for accommodations provided and courtesies extended. Carried.

Mr. LITTLE — Mr. President, upon information in regard to the illness of the ex-president of the New England Association, Mr. Yerrinton, I move we send our sympathy as an Association to him, and expressing our earnest wishes for his speedy recovery. Carried.

The PRESIDENT called for the report of the Committee on Nominations, and the following nominations were made by the committee, and they were elected as nominated :

For President — Theodore C. Rose, Elmira.

For Vice-President — Benjamin W. Readshaw, Buffalo.

For Secretary and Treasurer — Etta A. Emens, Rochester.

For Librarian — M. Jeanette Ballantyne, Rochester.

For Executive Committee — George R. Bishop, New York ; Thomas R. Griffith, Rochester ; Clara A. White, Elmira ; Charles F. King, Glens Falls ; Spencer C. Rodgers, Troy.

The PRESIDENT — Ladies and gentlemen: It gives me very great pleasure to be succeeded in the office with which you were kind enough to honor me a year ago, just ten years after I had been honored with it before, and to welcome to the chair the very gentleman who ten years ago, at Watkins, succeeded me. I could have no more worthy successor, you could have no more worthy President. He has been an ornament to the association. Not only that, he has been one of the workers. Year after year, whether we have been at one end of the state or the other, he has been with us. He has come here from Chicago, and very likely somewhat more quickly than he would have done had it not been for our meeting. I appoint to conduct him to the chair which I vacate for him, Mr. Readshaw and Mrs. White.

Mr. ROSE — Ladies and gentlemen: I am very much surprised at the action of our nominating committee. I would have been better pleased had some one else been selected for President. However, I shall not shirk such duties as may be assigned me, and though I cannot hope to fill the place of my predecessor, who has presided with such ability and grace at our present meeting, still I will endeavor to perform the duties of the office as best I can. I shall not attempt any speech, but will simply thank you for the honor conferred, and ask what is your further pleasure.

Mr. LITTLE moved that Mr. Bishop, Mr. Readshaw and the President-elect be the printing committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. ROSE — I think Mr. Little ought to be on that committee, living so near Miss Emens, who has reported our proceedings.

Mr. BISHOP — I think Mr. Little will consent to act on that committee with the President and either Mr. Readshaw or myself. Either of us will have little to do with it, because we are at the wrong end of the state for efficient work — I am, at least — if Mr. Readshaw will consent to act.

Mr. ROSE — If Mr. Little will modify his resolution to that effect.

Mr. BISHOP — You will understand that any thing I can possibly do in the way of looking up documents, etc., I will be very glad to do.

The motion in regard to the printing committee was carried.

Mr. BISHOP — I wish to offer a resolution, Mr. chairman, that the thanks of this association, the active members here assembled, be tendered to our neighboring friends for their kindness in being with us on this occasion, and for their generous, admirable and able participation in our proceedings; and as a part of this resolution that we send our own best wishes and heartiest congratulations to the associations in Toronto, which they represent, which have so cordially invited us to be present at their meeting on the thirty-first instant. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. BISHOP — I think we ought also to thank our friends from New Jersey. New Jersey is sometimes considered a foreign state, and still it is pretty near New York. The gentleman who has come here on wheel may have come on a very lightning express, but so far as I am concerned, I would rather come on railroad. The one who came by railroad has certainly sacrificed some of his fare, and I hope he has been repaid for that sacrifice. I move that a vote of thanks be extended to them also. Carried.

Mr. BISHOP — I assume that those who have accompanied our own members here, not as shorthand writers but as their friends,— who happen to be ladies,— will be cordially thanked, and that every sort of expression of gratitude for their being with us will be duly tendered to them through those who brought them here. If not, I should make a motion.

Mr. ROSE concluded reading Mr. Desjardins' paper on "The Duty of the Stenographer as a Reporter of Speeches."



## THE DUTY OF THE STENOGRAPHER AS A SPEECH REPORTER.

BY M. ALPHONSE DESJARDINS, OF THE OFFICIAL PARLIAMENTARY REPORTORIAL CORPS, HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA.

**I**N his opening address at the London Shorthand Congress, 1887, Lord Roseberry, now one of the leading members of the Gladstone Cabinet, delivered the following sentence: "I pay homage in that spirit to your title and noble art, which has added largely to the power and economy of the present day, and is likely to add to them indefinitely in the future; and I pay homage to it further, for this reason; that, in the past, it has recorded the speeches of a Cicero and a Cæsar; and I think in the coming days historians will not be ungrateful to it for having recorded the speeches of a Gladstone, a Disraeli, and a Bright."

This language of the learned and noble lord proves conclusively in what high esteem and honor he holds the art of Stenography. That esteem and honor have their foundation in a parliamentary experience extending over many years, and on the usefulness of the art,—nay, on the very fact that it is an indispensable complement of parliamentary government. Those words may also be taken as a fitting appreciation, in the opinion of the noble lord, of the manner in which shorthand writers discharge their duties toward public men, and insure for them an everlasting memory for their deeds, and of the reasons that prompt them in dealing with matters connected with the people's welfare.

An art that has such an importance, and is susceptible of an application of the highest order, cannot be trifled with or looked upon as of small interest. On the contrary, it has conquered, even from the time of the great Roman orator, a footing of no secondary importance, and students of history cannot overestimate what they owe to the practice of stenography; for who can tell what is due to Tiron, the shorthand writer of Cicero, and his pupils? If that art has such a capital importance, nothing that is connected with it can be regarded as of small moment, certainly when the subject touches the highest application of stenography, namely, speech reporting. It was for me no matter for surprise to find in the reported

proceedings of the New York State Stenographers' Association, for the last two annual meetings and before, a somewhat lengthy discussion of what is to be considered the duty of the stenographer in transcribing his notes of a speech, or, in other words, whether he shall deem it his duty to revise or correct the phraseology used by the speaker, or produce it *ad literam*. I always thought this a most important subject; for it involves the whole fabric of speech reporting, and upon the solution given to the question depends, in my opinion, the good or ill appreciation of the outside public of our work; nay, still more, even of our usefulness. With such a view of the matter, it must be no wonder if I shall have enlarged perhaps a little too much on the various elements of this question. I should be pardoned, in consideration of my good intention and zeal. I have given for the last twenty years so much and so close attention to that particular point; I have made so many researches in order to arrive at a just and sensible conclusion, that I feel I may venture to offer an opinion on the matter. But in doing so I must crave the indulgence of my audience for using what is to me a foreign tongue. I feel very uneasy about the many deficiencies that will spoil my best efforts to reach the goal of my ambition; to be understood, and thereby add something to the labors already done on that question.

A few words before proceeding any further, on the relative meaning of the words "verbatim" and "verbatim report." It must be clearly understood that when I refer to the shorthand notes, I shall mean that those notes are *taken* verbatim; that is to say, that all the words of the speaker are taken down as they should be. And when I shall mention "verbatim report," that will mean the literal transcription of shorthand notes, as it is done in cases where a witness gives his evidence in a court of law, where, for obviously good reasons, every word has to be noted and transcribed. On the other hand, I strongly repudiate any thing that will tend to convey the idea that the words, "an edited or corrected report" of a speech does not mean a *verbatim* report, as it is universally admitted to be, amongst professional shorthand writers. In such matters, the least misunderstanding may lead to very wrong conclusions and false judgment. An *edited* report, in my mind, is as much a *verbatim* report as it can and should be, made on *ad literam verbatim* notes of the stenographer.

In his treatise read before this Association at its sixteenth annual meeting, held in 1891, Dr. Zeibig, in a very exhaustive paper on shorthand, mentions, only *en passant*, the subject of the revisionary duty of the stenographer, or the discretion supposed to be left in the hands of the practitioner in making his transcription. Of course it must be clearly understood, before going any farther, that what follows applies solely to a report of a speech, whether delivered on the floor of Parliament or Congress, or on the public platform, in the pulpit, or as a public lecture. It cannot be a question having application to any of those cases in which a truly and essentially verbatim transcription is required, as, for instance, in the proceedings of the law courts — the taking down of evidence. In those cases there cannot be any discretionary power, of any sort whatever; for if a witness happens to miss the proper expression to answer the question put to him, he has many opportunities of correcting himself; the lawyer on either side hastening to give him that opportunity, or even requiring him to explain what would seem more or less obscure or doubtful; but the same advantage is not given to the public speaker; — *he* must go on by all means, whether or not he feels the lack of appropriateness of his phraseology; having the sole opportunity of making good what is deficient by coming back on the same subject and repeating his views if he thinks his former expressions were inadequate to his thought.

I regret that so eminent a stenographer as Professor Zeibig has not dwelt in a more exhaustive manner on the subject referred to, as he, no doubt, would have thrown a good deal of light on it. However, we have his deliberate opinion on the matter; and that is to the effect, that the duty of a stenographer consists in reproducing as faithfully as possible the very words of the speaker; to make, in other terms, a true photograph of the speech. I shall hereafter refer to Dr. Zeibig's opinion. On the other hand, he admits that there is a large class of eminent shorthand writers who take exception to that opinion, and profess entirely different views about what is or what should be the duty of a stenographer acting as a speech reporter. He gives the opinion of Mr. Prévost, a French shorthand writer of long and practical experience, who thinks that the stenographer "who comprehends his mission in its highest sense, could not bestow too much care

on that part of it" which consists in correcting the phraseology of the speaker, above all, of the real extemporizer, without in any way interfering with the individual peculiarities of each speaker. Mr. Delpino, an Italian stenographer, holds the same view as Dr. Ziebig, and thinks that the photograph plan should prevail. According to Dr. Ziebig, this is the opinion entertained by the German stenographers; for he adds: "We in Germany are convinced that the embellishment of speeches, in the matter of form, cannot and should not be the province of a stenographer."

Here are both sides of the controversy clearly set forth. There are, of course, some minor details that I may discuss hereafter; but I thought it my duty to fully and distinctly put the question in the most precise form, so that there should not be any misunderstanding.

It is to be observed that Professor Zeibig does not at all allude to the opinion that may be entertained by all the other shorthand writers of the world, and more particularly of the English-speaking stenographers either of England or of the United States of America, where the winged art has accomplished the greatest progress, and has been most extensively used for so many years—amounting to centuries, in so far as England is concerned. It will only be just to give at least what one would consider a general but fair *resumé* of the opinion of the largest possible number of experts in the matter, and also of those most directly and especially interested in the solution of this question, the public men themselves, in the countries where shorthand is generally used for parliamentary purposes. And that opinion can be very safely gathered through the various rules adopted by the parliaments where official reporting is done, or from the conditions of competency required from those who desire to become official stenographers.

It must be conceded that too much care and attention cannot be bestowed on the subject; for it has a far greater importance than one would be disposed to grant it at first sight. From a reporter's point of view, it is not of small consequence that his work should be fully and highly appreciated by both sides; that is, by the speech-makers and by those who read the speeches saved from oblivion by his skilful hand. As Mr. George R. Bishop, your worthy President, puts it, for the shorthand writer who wishes to save his reputation for

accuracy, this side of the question is of vastly greater moment than can be imagined without serious consideration.

In an historical aspect, too, it can hardly be overestimated; for nothing is to be neglected to insure the utmost faithfulness when history is the objective. And when we reflect on the great expansion of democracy or popular government — for both are synonymous — since the beginning of the present century,— which means that almost every public act is the object of an open deliberation by the representatives of that democracy, where speeches by hundreds are delivered either to those representatives assembled or their direct and constitutional masters, the electors, and that the stenographers intervene to take those speeches down and have them in record for future reference and consideration,— it seems impossible to give the subject such notice as its importance would justify. If the above point is conceded, then how can one trifle with the question, when the good reputation and almost the whole character of a public man is at stake? for a senseless report of a man's speeches might make him appear in quite a different light from that in which he ought to appear, and mislead the historian who has to weigh the arguments to arrive at a just conclusion on the motives of a public man's deed, or to pass judgment on the work of his whole life. Of course, I do not mean to say that the speeches of a public man are the only basis upon which the historian must ground his judgment; but undoubtedly it must be admitted, on the other hand, that future history will very largely avail itself — as historians have already availed themselves — of such a rich mass of information; hence, upon the correctness or incorrectness of the record, might depend the good or bad appreciation of future generations of the lifework of many a public servant. It is not to be wondered at if the particular question of the duty of the stenographer in transcribing his notes has already occupied, and will in the present as well as in the future — until it is definitely settled — occupy much of the attention of the parliamentary practitioners. I say, parliamentary practitioners; for upon them devolves the greater part of the burden of what may be termed the *historical* reporting, or reporting which will be left to make history. Already, as above stated, such eminent men as Dr. Zeibig, of Dresden, Mr. Prévost, of Paris, and Mr. Delpino, of the Italian Official Corps of Stenographers, have expressly con-

sidered the subject, and have given their opinion. As was to have been expected, divergent views have been expressed by those gentlemen. But let us gather the opinions of other shorthand writers of equally great practical experience, who have declared themselves in favor of one system or the other, although they have not, to my knowledge, written particular essays on that matter. Nevertheless, that circumstance cannot be taken as lessening or impairing in any way the authority of such opinions.

According to Dr. Zeibig, the German stenographers are in favor of a report *really verbatim*. As it is a question not to be considered in the narrow point of view of one single country, however important and powerful it may be for the time being, but the inquiry must be broad enough to include every civilized people where shorthand is an institution, we may be allowed to seek outside for information, and examining the opinions of very eminent men of long years' service, try to come to a right conclusion as to what should be the final rule to be adopted and carried out as well as circumstances can permit. In pursuance of that idea, I have read with great care all within my reach that could throw light on the subject, amongst other interesting documents the Proceedings of the London and Paris Shorthand Congresses; also the evidence adduced before various committees of the British Parliament in 1878, 1880 and 1888. Thanks to the courtesy of the clerk of the British House of Commons, I have before me the official report of those inquiries. The following are some extracts from that most interesting evidence. We have in those blue books the opinion of the best men connected with the parliamentary shorthand department of the British press, and, of course, with their long and practical experience of the matter, that opinion carries great weight with it. I mention only the parliamentary shorthand department of the press, for, as everybody is aware, there is no official corps in England to report the *debates*; but when one knows what extent and importance is given in that press to political speech reporting, the views here recorded have as much authority as if they came from official hands. Mr. Charles Ross, superintendent of the reporting arrangements of the London "*Times*" for twenty-five years, was examined in July, 1878, and in the course of his evidence said:

"Is it your opinion that members are, as a rule, rather grateful to reporters for sometimes putting their language in a little better order than that in which it was delivered?—Owing to the nature of the manner in which the reports are carried on now, that is not done as well as it should be; but in some instances I should think they are very glad to have a *report*,—instead of what is called a verbatim report, which is a horrible thing."

In another answer he went much farther—too far, as many favorable to his general view might consider. In speaking of the "*Times*" giving shorter reports of the speeches, he said: " \* \* \* the members would be better served if they had their opinion given. The words are immaterial—except, perhaps, in a few cases; I beg pardon, I am thinking of such men as Canning and Plunkett: *there* it was material; their language was so beautiful."

"I suppose there are a few members in the House of Commons whose speeches you profess to report verbatim in the '*Times*?'—No; not verbatim, I hope; I do not think there is any one who is reported verbatim. You see a speech done at great length, and you are not conscious of any little alteration—improvements in the language or the construction of a sentence; it should be done, and I trust it is done; that is the reporter's duty."

"What kind of reporting do you call that?—I call that full reporting; accurate reporting. Verbatim reporting the speaker would think far from accurate."

[That opinion agrees completely with the experience of Mr. T. C. Rose, of Elmira, as reported in his paper published in the proceedings of the seventeenth annual meeting of this association; and I think that the President, Mr. Bishop, could tell the same story.]

"I was simply wishing to know how you characterize the fullest reports of the speeches of any members?—A *full* report. Verbatim reporting has never been known in a newspaper."

"Literally verbatim reporting you mean?—Yes." And here it must be born in mind that "*Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*" are mostly made up with the reports of the very same newspapers' report, and are considered, in England as well as elsewhere, as accurate reports as can be had; they do not bear the official stamp, but nobody thinks of denying

them the same authority as if they were official, and they are quoted the world over.

In another answer, Mr. Ross explained his views by giving some reasons. He said :

"I object to parliamentary reporting now as being too full, as giving much that might be omitted, and omitted with advantage to the speakers; I would give all the arguments of the speaker, and his opinions. You must be aware that a speaker must necessarily go on speaking; that he cannot stop; he must say the same thing not only twice, but sometimes three or four times; that does not add to the strength of the argument when you come to read it; it may impress it upon the mind of the hearers, and that is the excuse that is made for the iteration of counsel; but when you have it in print to refer to, you do not want all those repetitions.

"It is the individual reporter who, in point of fact, edits, if I may so speak, the speech which he reports?—Yes; he is responsible for that.

"Does that involve the possession of considerable education, as well as of talent, on the part of the reporter?—It does.

"But is it not the case that shorthand writing, as a mechanical art, may be learned mechanically by any person who can read and write?—Yes.

But *reporting*, whether in shorthand or in longhand, is a totally different thing?—Quite different."

Although I shall, later on, touch that point, I may be permitted to draw attention to the fact that in the above answers Mr. Ross declares that the *editing* duty of a parliamentary reporter or shorthand writer, involves the possession of considerable education as well as of talent on his part. That is why in every county, where there is an official reporting bureau for the recording of the debates of Parliament, it has been found necessary to require high educational qualifications from those forming part of such a bureau.

Mr. John Lovell, a man of considerable and practical experience as manager of the Press Association for ten years, was, of course, examined by the committee; and what is, according to that gentleman, a "*verbatim*" report of a speech? Here is what he said on the particular point we are now examining:—

"But is your idea of an historical record, that it is to be a verbatim report, or, at any rate, what has been described as a



*full* report?— I think it should be a *verbatim* report ; I do not see any other cause.

“Leaving out the repetitions?— Yes; of course it should not be slavishly *verbatim*.”

Mr. William Saunders, manager of the “Central News,” and formerly proprietor of the “Central Press,” being examined, said:—

“How far would the official report that you contemplate, be in the nature of a *verbatim* report, or an edited report?— It would be a *verbatim* report, with the exception of obvious repetitions, and such matter as could be obviously omitted without detriment to the report.”

Mr. William Henry Gurney-Salter, of the firm of Messrs. Gurney, shorthand writers to the British Parliament for a great many years, testified as follows as to what is, in his opinion, a *verbatim* report of a speech, and what is the duty of an intelligent shorthand writer in transcribing his notes:—

“That it should be a *verbatim* report, you mean?—However the report might afterward be revised or abridged throughout or in particular parts, I think the basis should be a *verbatim* report, subject to the corrections of any grammatical errors, or any such slips as most speakers occasionally fall into. Sometimes a speaker adds to a sentence, by way of an afterthought, a clause which obviously should be introduced at an earlier stage;—an intelligent shorthand writer would correct that when it was copied out.”

So much for the inquiry held in 1878. In 1880, the House of Lords appointed a select committee to complete the inquiry made in 1878, and amongst others, Mr. Gurney-Salter, who had appeared before the preceding committee, completed his first testimony on the particular point I have in view, by the following words, which have a great bearing on the question I now discuss. Asked if there was any thing else which he would wish to add with reference to the necessary qualification of a shorthand writing staff, he answered:—

“I think it will be evident that, considering the great importance of the subject-matter to be reported, and also the extreme importance of having an official or even a semi-official record perfectly accurate, so that the words spoken may be quoted with safety at a future time, the highest shorthand writing qualifications should be brought into the service of the report, and that for that purpose not only technical skill,

that is to say, rapidity and accuracy of shorthand writing (which are qualifications by no means so common as is often supposed — very much the contrary), but also familiarity with public questions, and indeed general education, a university education if possible — should be possessed by the shorthand writer. It is evident, too, that it would be a work of very great responsibility. A shorthand writer in such a position must be a man who will not be negligent, and who will not be induced from any cause to depart from his strict duty. There must be no inaccuracy, either by accident or design, in his report."

If the stenographer is supposed to do only mechanical work — if he is only what Dr. Zeibig says, a man who makes a photograph, why, then, exact such qualifications of the highest possible order, as "familiarity with public questions, and indeed general education — a university education?" That indicates very clearly, to my mind, that Mr. Gurney-Salter is strongly of opinion that the shorthand writer must be in a position to do *editing* work, and, moreover, that it is by no means one of the less important parts of his duty, for those high qualifications are much more often required to be used than is generally believed.

In 1888, general complaints having again been heard about "*Hansard*," both houses appointed another committee to inquire into the publishing of the "Debates" of the Imperial Parliament. The committee called upon the practical shorthand writers of the London and Provincial Press. Of course Mr. Hansard was called upon to give his evidence, as he had had a long experience in the matter, not so much as a working hand, in the strictest sense of the word, but as a gentleman having had a long intercourse with members of both branches of Parliament about speech reporting, and consequently being in a position to know what does or does not satisfy them, or would or would not satisfy those public speakers. Here is something interesting :

"Would you explain to the committee what you do propose?—Most people know what a full report is ; it is different from a verbatim report. Many honorable members would be very much astonished if they saw a verbatim report of what they had said the night before.

"BY MR. LABOUCHERE — In this plan that you propose, would your shorthand writer take down every word the

speaker says, and then, in writing it out, put it into a little better English; or, would he himself put it into better English, or reduce it to a certain extent, while the speaker is speaking?—I think not whilst the speaker is speaking; I do not think it is possible.

“Would the shorthand writer literally report every word?—He would if he wanted it.

“But there is no such thing done?—There is no such thing either in the United States, or in France, or in Italy, or anywhere.

“I may take it as your opinion that an actually verbatim report is very seldom obtained?—It is very seldom obtained; and I should say, except in the case of a very great speaker, like Mr. Gladstone, that it was not desirable.” And as publisher for a great many years of the “Debates,” Mr. Hansard is considered to possess a vast knowledge of all that is connected with shorthand in so far as that especial kind of reporting is concerned.

Mr. William Leycester, head of the reporting staff of “The Times,” and, as such, director of all the operations in connection with their reports, said what follows, Earl Spencer putting the questions:

“In your ordinary report you correct, I suppose, any slips of grammar?—Yes; a good reporter ought to be an editor, more or less.

“It would be very grotesque, indeed, if the actual words were given?—The effect would be singular in some cases; I would rather not say ‘grotesque.’

“As to the reports to which many of us subscribe, and which are issued every week by ‘The Times,’—are those verbatim, as they appear in ‘The Times?’—With the necessary corrections.

“What sort of corrections do you refer to?—Verbal corrections; obvious blunders.

“Do you mean corrections made by the speaker, or whoever edits the speech in ‘The Times’ office?—Made by the editor, and also, if any speaker writes to us to correct our report, we insert his correction.

“And there are omissions, are there not, of words which were actually spoken in the debate;—are they omitted in the weekly report?—No; there is no alteration of the reports as they appeared in ‘The Times,’ except that they are corrected.”

Further in his testimony, Mr. Leycester came again on the same point, and emphasized more clearly his opinion about the necessity for the stenographer to look to the grammatical correction of the speeches. He said :

" You say that 'The Times' does not give a verbatim report; I suppose there is hardly any instance in which any lengthy speech, from any one, is absolutely verbatim. Sometimes a speaker begins a sentence, then he harks back and begins it again? —Yes; a good reporter, as I say, ought to be a good editor. [Take Mr. Gladstone, who is supposed to be the most fluent of speakers; I suppose even his speech requires a little editing? — A very little; but a little now and then.]

" I suppose that all the editing Mr. Gladstone would require would be leaving out, ' Well, now,' and things of that sort? — Yes; and a little redundancy now and then to be pruned.

" We know that Mr. Gladstone's sentences are sometimes involved; but do not his sentences always come out perfectly clear? —Yes; he always finishes his sentences.

" So that, practically, Mr. Gladstone's speeches, to all intents and purposes, could be reported as they are spoken, with the exception of such words as ' Well, now?' — Yes.

" The same observations would apply, would they not, to such speeches as Mr. Bright used to deliver? — Yes, even more."

I have reproduced here the last three answers in order to show how necessary is the editing process, when one considers that out of so numerous a Parliament, — both houses containing over 1,000 members, composed of the higher social and educated class of the United Kingdom, — there were, in 1888, in the judgment of Mr. Leycester, and of the members generally of the committee, but two gentlemen that could be reported verbatim, with, however, the exception of "a little editing." Now, how much more editing must be required in other countries where the democracy is all powerful?

Mr. Leycester says further, in his evidence: "A full report does not, of course, mean a verbatim report? — There is not much difference. I do not like the word 'verbatim;' but when I say a *full* report, I mean as full as it would be proper to report anybody.

" By 'verbatim' you mean the inclusion of all errors? — Yes; and repetitions, and diffuseness."

In another part of his evidence, he explains more clearly what he means by a "full" report:—

"A full report would not be a verbatim report?—It would be nearly verbatim. I say I do not like the word 'verbatim;' but a full report would be a verbatim report to all intents and purposes, leaving out that which a man would leave out himself if he were correcting his own speech.

"Leaving out 'Well, now,' and such expressions as that?—Yes; and mere repetitions.

"But, practically, for a full report, you would retain everything that anybody (himself) would retain in his speech?—Yes; as full a report as anybody would care to have.

"A 'full' report is a rational verbatim report?—Yes."

Mr. William Henry Gurney-Salter, whom I have already quoted in preceding inquiries, was again called before the committee in 1888, and gave lengthy evidence. In connection with what should be and is the duty of the shorthand writer in transcribing a speech, he again repeated his former opinion, but took advantage to give a little more explanation on what, for him, the word "verbatim" means; and it clearly appears that both he and Mr. Leycester are of the same mind on the subject:

"Do you think if an official reporter were employed it would be necessary that his report should be quite verbatim? There is a good deal of official reporting in this country which I may venture to speak of, because I have been responsible for it for a long time, both in these committees and in some judicial work, and in other places. The duty of an official shorthand writer is well understood. It is not to give a 'full report,' but to give a verbatim report; by which I do not mean, and I do not think any official shorthand writer will understand it to mean, a report containing grammatical imperfections and obvious slips, which the speaker at the moment would, perhaps, recall, but a good, clean report of all his words. In principle, the duty of the official shorthand writer is not that which I believe reporters in ancient times supposed to be their duty,—that of conveying the thoughts of the speaker, regardless of his words; *but that of conveying the words of the speaker with just such slight rearrangement as may sometimes be necessary to place them in proper form.*

"Are those rearrangements made by the shorthand writer during the progress of his work, or does he actually take it

down as said, and rearrange it afterward? — He practically always rearranges, to some slight extent, as he goes along. If the speaker uses the wrong word and corrects it, it is corrected by the shorthand writer at the same time, just as would be done if you were dictating slowly to some one in longhand.

"Does the shorthand writer correct grammatical errors as he goes along? — To some extent, but not largely.

"Then if an official reporter were employed and were to make any error, which in the opinion of the speaker was an important one, would the responsibility lie entirely on the shorthand writer? — Certainly; he would be answerable for it, just as any officer is answerable for any thing he does wrong in the discharge of his duty. Official shorthand writing is not altogether a novelty. \* \* \*

"But from your experience of foreign official reporting, is any correction by the reporter or by the official editor allowed, or, is the only alteration that which is given in by the members themselves? — I may be allowed to say that we collected a great deal of evidence upon that subject last year for the International Shorthand Congress, and I was astonished to find how very much the practice is the same in nearly all countries. In one case the official report of the debates was summarily described by one of the shorthand writers as *verbatim cum grano salis*. That is very much what I have been endeavoring to describe as the duty of an official shorthand writer in this country, namely, to give the very words, *but in an intelligible form, by a slight rearrangement, if necessary*. That is the reply that was given in various terms by most of the shorthand writers to whom the question was put, and it was specifically put to the shorthand writers of every country in which there are official shorthand writers.

"Mr. Leycester objected to the term 'verbatim.' I understood him to do so as implying that there might be remarks made such as 'well, now,' and so on, which need not be introduced; that would be his meaning, as I understood? — I should agree with Mr. Leycester, and I should prefer to call it a '*full* report,' provided it be understood that by a '*full* report' is meant a report of every thing *except redundancies*.

Touching the systems of long or short turns, he expressed himself as follows, — and it will readily be seen how close is the connection between that subject and the one now discussed:

"In one case (the short turns) the reporter becomes a mere machine; whereas, in the other (the long turns), he has to exercise intelligence?—I do not think under either system it would be possible to obtain a good result without the reporter's exercising intelligence, but he has more opportunities of exercising intelligence under the one system than the other.

"His intelligence comes into greater service when he takes the longer reports?—Yes.

"Of the two systems, you would prefer that?—Yes; and that is not my own individual opinion only; one very good authority that I cite for it is M. Lagache, who was for many years the chief stenographer in Paris, and is now a senator. He told me that the short-turn system was not in his opinion so good a system. I have a memorandum of a conversation with him on the subject. I also know the opinion of many other shorthand writers who have practised in the courts, to be the same. The ex-president of the Institute of Shorthand Writers, practising in the courts of justice, expressed that opinion at the Shorthand Congress."

And why should the reporter know what has taken place before he entered the room, or have the thread even of the sentences, if he is only and merely called upon to give a photograph of the sounds he hears? It is clear that in the opinion of Mr. Gurney-Salter, the stenographer must always exercise his intelligence, as he takes good care to tell the committee in the answers just quoted. Not that I mean to convey the idea that there is no intellectual exercise in the mere copying of the shorthand notes into longhand writing; but any one will admit that there is far less of such exertion than when some editing is expected to be done. Again, the same gentleman said:

"And also, in the third place, would you say it requires a particular training for the newspaper reporter, which is slightly different from that required by an official reporter?—Yes, there is no doubt that there is a difference between the reporter and what is called the shorthand writer, in the professional sense of the term. They start from different principles. The old theory of the reporter was that it was his duty to give the thoughts of the speaker, as far as possible—to a certain extent, at all events, in his words. On the other hand, the old theory of the shorthand writer was, that it was his business to record the very words, with any grammatical

imperfections. I think myself that the old-fashioned shorthand writer erred on the one hand in not correcting slips and grammatical errors, simply photographing what took place. I think, on the other hand, the reporter sometimes fell into the error of drawing sketches instead of recording. There is not now, I think, the difference that there was formerly between the two, but it would be generally admitted that between the shorthand writer and the reporter there still is some difference of that kind; the shorthand writer has always been brought up to record the very words, while the reporter has been brought up to put the words in a legible presentable form before the public.

"I understand you to state that a reporter who was accustomed to report for the newspapers, was more in the habit of putting into words the thoughts of the speaker than of reporting exactly what was said? — I said that was the ancient idea. I remember Mr. Ross used to say, distinctly, that a reporter in olden times considered it his duty to reproduce the thoughts, rather than the words.

"But I wish to know about the present day? — I do not think that between a first-rate reporter of the present day taking a speech by, say Mr. Gladstone, speaking deliberately, and a first-rate shorthand writer taking down the same speech, there would be any discrepancy at all in the results."

It must be observed that Mr. Gurney-Salter tries to make clear the difference there is in the training of the two—so far as England is concerned at least,—between an "official shorthand writer," as he is called there, and a "reporter." Here, the names are not exactly the same, but the two are known. For in England what they call an "official shorthand writer" is one who is more particularly required to take testimony before the various courts of law, or of parliamentary inquiries carried on by select committees of either house of Parliament, or Royal Commissions — special and temporary bodies appointed by the crown for a definite purpose, and generally, all work where verbatim shorthand notes have to be transcribed word for word as in the case of the evidence of a witness; while the word "reporter" applies to a man who, although an expert shorthand writer, too, is nevertheless more particularly occupied with the reporting of speeches, be they delivered on the floor of the houses of Parliament, on the public platform, or elsewhere. However, Mr. Gurney-



Salter plainly declared that the shorthand writer is supposed to do editing, if he is to do his duty intelligently.

One more quotation from an English expert shorthand writer, and I shall have concluded that part of this study. I do not suppose that Mr. Thomas Allen Reed, the *doyen* of English stenographers, is an unknown individual amongst my American brethren. His long experience of over half a century of practice, his work, which comprises thousands of note-books, his writings, in a charming style, and his unrivalled devotedness to his art, as well as his numerous studies on the duty of a stenographer, have earned for him a universal reputation above all in the stenographic world. However, I hope that I may be permitted to use the authority of that gentleman in order to show that the photograph system, in the matter of speech reporting, does not commend itself to him, and to urge that it would be, to my mind, a great error for the young shorthand writer to adopt it because it has the approval of such an able man as the German professor of Dresden. It is precisely for the reason that I have the greatest respect for the opinion of Dr. Zeibig, that I seek to oppose against him such a high authority as Mr. Reed; for I think the latter has achieved in the profession as good a position as the former, and that the opinion of one deserves as much credit as do the views of the other, so far as ability and long experience of the very highest practical character are concerned. Mr. Reed has, as every one knows, published a very valuable book under the title of "*The Reporters' Guide*." I have before me now the third edition of that book, and I transcribe the following very truthful picture of a daily experience. I feel that I possibly abuse the kind courtesy extended to me, but I hope to be forgiven in consideration of my earnest desire to as fully ventilate the subject as I possibly can with the information at my command. Mr. Reed writes as follows :

"In transcribing hastily-written notes of a rapid legal argument or a scientific lecture or a metaphysical discourse, the demand upon the intellectual faculties is of course considerably increased; and when any special difficulties are experienced, such as a very loose or involved style on the part of the speaker, or an indistinctness of utterance, the task of disentangling confused sentences and supplying the omissions, to say nothing of giving a meaning to ill-shaped symbols

capable of any number of 'various readings,' involves an amount of mental effort and application little suspected by the uninitiated.

"I am perfectly aware that there are many shorthand writers who fail to accomplish this task with the requisite skill; who, having, probably with great manual dexterity, taken their shorthand notes, set about the labor of transcribing, troubled with no misgiving as to the best rendering of complicated sentences, heedless of the most obvious violations of the rules of syntax, anxious only to get through the work as quickly as possible, and then to send in the bill. But I am not referring to the labors of the careless or the incompetent; I allude to the efforts of the painstaking, conscientious, and intelligent shorthand writer, when I say that they involve no inconsiderable amount of mental exertion. I do not now mean the exertion required in following the speaker, but that which is demanded in producing an accurate and at the same time a readable transcript of the notes that have been taken.

"The first care of the reporter in transcribing his notes should be to produce an intelligible report; and he will hardly accomplish this unless he himself understands what he writes. If he fails to follow the train of ideas which he has to record, the probability is, that more or less of confusion will be observable in his report. He should endeavor to place himself for the time in the position of the speaker; and generally his aim should be to present his report in such a form as the speaker himself would be likely to adopt if he were his own reporter. The extent to which he may depart from the phraseology employed, or omit any of the speaker's words, will greatly depend upon the style of the speaker and the nature of the report required. If he has to supply a full—called, by courtesy, a *verbatim* report, he will, of course, adhere very closely, but not slavishly, to the speaker's words. If a condensed report is needed, he will take greater liberties with the wording of the sentences, and concern himself chiefly with a presentation of the ideas in a concise, intelligible, and grammatical form. In either case, especially in the latter, the manner in which the task is performed will greatly depend upon the reporter's apprehension of the speaker's meaning.

\* \* \* The task of the reporter in transcribing his notes, is not unlike that of the translator, especially in the necessity of an intelligent apprehension of the ideas conveyed; and I

take it that both should be guided to some extent by the same principle. The question which I have no doubt every good translator often mentally puts to himself in the course of his labor is, 'How would my author have expressed this idea if he had written in my language instead of his own?' In like manner, the reporter, as I have said, should often seek to put himself in the position of the speaker, and give such a rendering of his words as will be best adapted to express the ideas sought to be conveyed.

"In some cases this is no difficult task. When a full report is required of speeches like those delivered by Mr. Gladstone or Lord Derby, whose thoughts almost invariably and of necessity clothe themselves in clear and precise language, the reporter has scarcely any thing to do but accurately to record the words that fall on the ear. But those are exceptional instances; and in by far the greater number of cases, the words uttered need something more than mere transmission; they require passing through the alembic of the reporter's brain, there to undergo such transmutation as an intelligent mind deems necessary.

"I do not mean to say that it is a reporter's duty entirely to recast a slovenly speech, and present it in the form of a carefully written essay. I have somewhere seen it stated, not only that this should be done, but that the reporter should endeavor to record all the points which the speaker *intended* to make, in addition to those which he has *actually* made. I need hardly say that few reporters would care to undertake a labor so herculean, and perhaps few speakers of any note would care, to this extent, to intrust their reputation to the tender mercies of a reporter, however skilful, who should take this enlarged view of his functions. The general object to be obtained is to make the speaker speak intelligently, grammatically, and, I will not say gracefully, but smoothly, without, however, suppressing any marked individual characteristics worth preserving. To make some speakers speak smoothly, would be to conceal their individuality in a way that neither they nor the public would desire. But as a rule, reporters should omit needless tautology, soften down awkward angularities, and supply obvious omissions in composition.

"With regard to the omission of unimportant matter, very much will depend upon whether a *full* or a *condensed* report is

required. In the case of a full report, it will often be sufficient to omit some of the frequently recurring words at the commencement of sentences, such as 'now,' 'now, then,' 'let me say,' etc., which are not noticed in the speaker, but which, when often repeated, greatly mar the effect of a printed speech."

And further on, after having given the rules applying to condensed reports, he adds:

"With regard to the second point I have mentioned as coming within the scope of the 'reporters' duties—the rounding off of angularities, little need be said. The style of some speakers is so broken and disjointed that nothing short of an entire reconstruction of the sentences is needed to render them even passably readable. This does not necessarily arise from any confusion of ideas on the part of the speaker. It is sometimes the result of a rapid flow of thought with which the tongue is unable to keep pace. Whatever its cause, the reporter should do his best to remedy the defect, taking scrupulous care that while altering the verbal expression he does not misrepresent the sentiments of the speaker. In the case of a very involved sentence, it is a good plan to emancipate yourself entirely from the speaker's phraseology; to do your best to ascertain the speaker's meaning, then to shut your book, or close your eyes, and, oblivious of every word you have written, express the sentiment in your own way. It is not often, perhaps, that a speaker's words are so intractable; but every reporter will occasionally meet with instances of this kind.

"One of the most common errors of public speakers is that of beginning a sentence and never finishing it. In most cases the reporter can easily supply the missing words, or by a little judicious omission or alteration at an early part of the sentence, render unnecessary the termination which the speaker's form of words requires. Nothing is more common than for a speaker to begin by saying, "if I am told that," 'when it is contended that,' or some similar phrase, and then, after pursuing the intricacies of a long sentence, wholly to forget the 'when' or the 'if,' and leave the result to the imagination. In such a case, it will generally suffice to turn the hypothetical into a somewhat more direct statement, and render the words 'I may be told that,' 'it is (or may be) contended.' Here is a specimen of a literally unfinished style of

speaking such as will often try the patience of the young reporter:—

“ ‘When I remember how many persons have been benefited by this society, which was established not only for the relief of the poor,—because you will remember, Mr. Chairman, that I said distinctly when we first commenced operations in this town, though I was opposed by almost every individual who attended that meeting—not that I had any fear of opposition, for I maintain that if a man cannot stand against a little opposition he is worth very little; but when I am told that this society, or indeed any other society of a similar character—for I am happy to say that in this country the spirit of charity is as widely diffused as the air we breathe, and it would be an evil day for England if that spirit should ever be extinguished,—No, sir; I maintain that this cause belongs to the rich, as well as to the poor.’ ”

“ It is quite possible that the syntax of this peculiar collocation of words, especially when uttered *ore rotundo* on a public platform, would pass without observation except at the reporters’ table, and that, accompanied with a moderate amount of emphasis and gesticulation, the utterance would be received with ‘loud applause.’ It will be seen, however, that in those few lines there are three sentences begun and not finished. ‘When I remember’—what then? ‘I said distinctly’—said what? ‘When I am told that this society.’ ‘Society’ is a nominative without a verb, and the ‘when’ is wholly ignored. Now, let us attempt, without altering them more than is necessary for the purpose, to put the words into a readable shape. The meaning is sufficiently obvious:—

“ ‘Let us remember how many persons have been benefited by this society, which was established for the benefit not only of the poor but of the rich. You will remember, Mr. Chairman, my statements on this subject when we commenced our operations in this town. True, I was opposed by almost every individual who attended our meeting. Not that I had any fear of opposition, for I maintain that he who cannot withstand opposition is worth very little. I repeat, it is not the poor alone who are concerned in this society, or indeed in any other of a similar character; for I am happy to say that in this country the spirit of charity is as widely diffused as the air we breathe, and it would be an evil day for England when that

spirit should be extinguished. No, sir; I maintain that this cause belongs to the rich as well as to the poor."

"But while the kind of speech of which the above may be taken as a type, stands in absolute need of revision, it is not to be supposed that every species of abruptness or angularity should be rounded off, and every imperfect sentence reconstructed. There is a kind of abruptness which gives character to a speech, and which, therefore, the reporter should carefully preserve. To supply correcting words and patch up broken sentences might in such a case deprive a speech of half its vigor and originality. I have seen characteristic speeches of this kind spoiled by the injudicious manipulation of the reporter who has been at infinite pains to 'dress up' sentences that might have been rendered precisely as they were uttered. These cases, however, are rare, and they may be easily discriminated by the exercise of ordinary judgment."

One could hardly find a better or a more realistic picture of the reporter's work than the one given in the above extracts from Mr. Reed's book.

At the Paris International Shorthand Congress, the same opinion as expressed by Mr. Reed prevailed almost unanimously; at least, I do not think that one would find, in the *Compte-rendu*, a single opinion favorable to the photograph system of reporting speeches. Such experienced experts as Mr. Delaunay, L. P. Guenin, French stenographers; Mr. Max Bäeckler, a German shorthand writer, as Dr. Zeibig is; Mr. Menchaca, chief of the stenographic bureau of the Senate of the National Congress of the Argentine Republic; Mr. Inzauraga, *doyen* of the shorthand writers of the same country, and others, have expressed themselves in the most emphatic manner in favor of *revision* by the stenographer as a primary necessity, and deprecate even the mere idea of giving the speeches with all the inaccuracies and angularities they contain even with the best speakers. I could give from those gentlemen page after page of extracts which would corroborate, in the most positive manner, all that the most expert English stenographers have said, but as I have already indulged too much, perhaps, in quotations, and above all, as I have a few more extracts to give, I shall not venture to do so, as it might involve a mere repetition; and, as the English proverb says, "too much of a good thing is worse than nothing," I leave it to those who would desire to have more detailed

information on the subject, to read the *Compte-rendu* of the Paris Congress.

I have not yet mentioned the opinion entertained by my brethren of the United States, and for a good reason. Addressing myself to an audience exclusively composed of practical stenographers of the highest order, and heartily devoted to the interest of the winged art, they are, I am sure, quite aware of the prevailing opinion amongst them on that particular subject. However, from what I could learn, and from what I have read in the "Proceedings" of this important association for the last three annual meetings, I came to the conclusion that the doctrine of Dr. Zeibig, as expressed in his paper in 1891, does not command many admirers amongst them. The very able paper of Mr. T. C. Rose, of Elmira, in 1892, and the outspoken language of Mr. Little on the same point, is at least a good sign, if no more, of the nature of the prevailing opinion amongst shorthand writers of the Great Republic; above all, when it is borne in mind that no one attempted to defend the photograph system. Surely, if the view of Professor Zeibig had many partisans, and much more so if they were the majority, in the States, one at least would have been found in the two last meetings of your association to take up that opinion and defend it. Therefore I am, I think, safe in asserting that the general current of opinion in America is in favor of the theory so well expounded by Mr. Reed in the copious extracts above given. So far as Canada is concerned, I know of no exception to this rule in the official service of the Dominion Parliament.

In order to know to what extent the shorthand writers employed for the official reporting of parliamentary debates in different countries hereafter mentioned were doing "editing" work in their transcription, or if they were obliged to give the debates verbatim, the committee of the International Shorthand Congress, held in London in 1887, issued the following question:—

"Is it (the 'report,' or transcript) to be strictly verbatim, or may it be condensed, or edited, etc.?"

A short but impartial review of the answers given to that question by the various official bureaus of the following countries will enable us to arrive at a just conclusion as to what system has been considered to answer best the general want and which has commanded the best consideration. It is clear,

also, that in those answers will be found a very good sign as to what is the prevailing opinion amongst experts; for no doubt the rule cannot have been established without the advice of practical men in the matter:—

CANADA. *Senate*—The report, said Holland Brothers, is a full one, but “edited for style,”—as they believe is the case in England.

*House of Commons*—The report is as nearly verbatim as possible, consistently with good literary form. It is sometimes slightly condensed.

AUSTRALIA. From Mr. HADLEY, Melbourne—In Victoria, the report is condensed, or edited, according to the character of the debate. The editorial faculty is exercised.

INDIA. From Mr. WILSON, Calcutta—The report is made according to order.

AMERICA. From Mr. D. F. TRUNPHY—The debates are published verbatim in one sense, but, of course, not so as to present glaring grammatical inaccuracies or slips of the tongue; they are *not* condensed, or edited for style.

GERMANY. From Dr. ZEIBIG—At Berlin, the transcript may be neither condensed nor edited for style; the strictest adherence to the words is required. The same rule prevails at Dresden.

MUNICH. From Dr. LAUTENHAMMER—The transcript must be strictly verbatim.

FRANCE. From M. DEPOIN and Dr. WEBER—The reviseurs make corrections in style, and necessary rectifications. The report is *in extenso*

ITALY.—Signor MARZOVATI—The notes are transcribed as faithfully as possible.

HOLLAND.—Herr STEGER—The transcript is required to be verbatim—*cum grano salis*.

BELGIUM.—M. LA-COMBLÉ—The shorthand writers ought naturally to respect always the thoughts of the speaker in all their developments, and, as much as possible, his particular style; but, of course, they have not only the right, but the duty, to correct inaccuracies which occur in extempore speaking. Whilst endeavoring, therefore, to reproduce as exactly as possible the speaker's words, they seek to unite accuracy in language with fidelity in reproduction of the speeches.

DENMARK.—Herr DESSAU—A verbatim transcript is required, but slight alterations for style are allowed.



NORWAY.—Herr CAPPELIN — The reports must be verbatim.

Thus it will be seen that out of eleven countries here given, two only are mentioned as requiring strictly verbatim reports, while the rest admit editing for style. To those must be added several others, such as the Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, and England.

I have taken the care, perhaps at the serious risk of wearying the audience, of giving in full the opinions expressed by eminent men in the profession in the course of the inquiries, held by the British Parliament during the last fifteen years or elsewhere, and to give a *resumé* of the rules applying to the revision of the notes of the official stenographers in several other countries, in order to show that, almost unanimously, experts in the matter have thought that a shorthand writer reporting a speech must not act as a mere photographer, as Dr. Zeibig puts it, but, on the contrary, that for almost every one it is a cardinal principle that in this particular work, "rearrangement" is of absolute necessity; that the most audacious amongst them never thought of giving a mere photographic report, as suggested.

Now, let us try to give the views of public men on the matter,—those, after all, most seriously interested. I have the opinion of several leading public men in England, in the reports of the inquiries above quoted, and I shall forthwith give a few only of them,—for a complete exposition of all those views would be too long for the patience of my hearers.

Viscount Eversley, who had been for eighteen years Speaker of the House of Commons, declared that "if they (the members) wish to have a perfectly true report of what they have said in Parliament, it is well worth their while to take the trouble of correcting their speeches."

As I wish to give a fair *resumé* of the views contained in the documents before me, I will give the opinion of Lord Halsbury, Lord High Chancellor, in 1888:

"I understand your lordship's view to be, that there should be an official verbatim report published as rapidly as possible after the occurrence of the debate, and not subject to correction?—Certainly. There might be correction permitted to a certain extent, although I confess I would myself prefer it to be without correction at all. Take what takes place in a com-

mittee here. Very often the evidence of the witnesses is submitted to them before it is finally printed, to see if there is any thing incorrect; but it would be a gross abuse of that power if a witness attempted to alter any thing. He is only expected to alter any thing where there has been an obvious mistake, but not to change any thing he has said. I should object to any thing but a most modified revision, upon the ground that it would be fatal to the instantaneous publication of the report; and, in the next place, I should think that the great value of an official report would be, that it was *verbatim*, and without the subsequent intervention of the author of the speech."

Of course, one could have pointed out to the noble lord that there is a material difference between an individual appearing as witness before a court of law or any other tribunal of inquiry, and the same party speaking *impromptu* to a house or a public meeting. While in the latter case he has almost no time to prepare his sentences, arrange his words in a grammatical order, or to look for the exact terms conveying the exact meaning of what he has in his mind, the former has plenty of time to do all that, and nobody would observe even if he paused before he gave his answers,—which are naturally short on account of the many questions put. Who ever dreamed of a public speaker stopping here and there to fix the grammatical order of his words, and, perhaps, in the very middle of a sentence, to look for the exact words, while the same thing is of daily occurrence in the courts of law, where witnesses are examined, and nobody ever thinks of finding fault with them for so doing. If an orator were to take such a liberty with his audience, he would be ridiculed to such an extent that he would himself feel that the thing could not be done again. That explains the very marked difference there is between the two; though Lord Halsbury cites the case of a report of evidence as similar to that of the report of a speech; which explains the grave mistake he committed in assimilating one case to the other in order to support his own conclusion. However, by the answer above quoted, it is evident that the noble lord admitted corrections; though, as he said, "in a most modified form." And it must be borne in mind that he is an extreme believer in *verbatim* work, probably because he has very little experience of the inside working of a shorthand writer's profession, as it will clearly appear by

the following answers, when one reads them side by side with what has been written by all expert and experienced men of the profession:

"Are you aware that there is not one speaker in the House of Commons who is reported verbatim? — I should not have thought it was so universal as that. If my memory serves me, I have often heard speeches which, on reading them the next day, seemed to have been reported verbatim."

"You are not referring to speakers who send their speeches up to the gallery? — No; I referred to such a speaker as Mr. Gladstone, for example; when I have read his speech the next morning after it had been delivered, it appeared to have been reported verbatim."

Mr. Leonard Henry Courtney, member of the House of Commons, being asked what he thought of the effect of an actually verbatim report, including the slips and grammatical errors that may occur in the speeches of certain speakers, said:—"I do not think it would be worth the pains." Further on, he was asked if he thought that members did not require a verbatim report; and he stated, "I never heard any desire for it."

The Right Honorable Arthur Peel, then and now Speaker of the House of Commons, was also examined. Having been then Speaker for over twenty years, he had a good deal of experience in the matter, so far as the desire of members was concerned for having a verbatim report of debates:—

"Let me refer, first, to the former system:—you do not think that an absolutely verbatim report would be practicable? — I do not quite understand what an absolutely verbatim report can be; it must, in any case, I suppose, be revised, either by the shorthand writer or by the member who has made the speech.

"I think it has been put to the committee in this way: that a verbatim report would mean a report giving, word for word, every thing each speaker said, except such expressions as 'well, now,' and such purely interjectory expressions as would not appear in any report. The witnesses, I think, have been agreed as to the correction of the report, but primarily, as to the report itself, do you think it would be practicable or reasonable to attempt a *verbatim* report, in the sense I have stated? — It might be practicable, but I do not think it would be reasonable. \* \* \* [Such a report might or might not

be corrected by the several members. If it were not corrected, do you think there would be much complaint as to its accuracy?—I think revision is essential, in the interests of members].”

I have done with the quotations of the individual opinion of public men in England, as recorded in the proceedings of the recent inquiries made by the British Parliament. What has been, I may be very properly asked, the decision of the committees that have heard the evidence? The decision, as expressed by the report, was to the effect, not even of having an official report of the debates; which decision might be considered as a mistake, in an historical point of view, although it must be admitted that there is no country in the world where the public press goes to the same expense and succeeds in giving so full and accurate a report of the debates occurring in the national Parliament, as the English newspapers do. To be convinced of this fact,—which had a great deal to do with the decision of the committees,—it sufficed to read the reports published by the “Times,” the “Standard,” of London, “The Scotsman,” of Edinburgh, of the provincial press, and many others, which have as many as fifteen and seventeen shorthand writers employed daily to make out those reports. The great drawback, for historical reference, is, that information is scattered in the files of a great many newspapers; for speeches of only local importance are especially reported in the local paper of the individual member who has delivered it. But taken as a whole, the press reports are, I think, as complete as they can be; and with “Hansard” to supply the gross deficiencies that may happen, it is as accurate a record as a great many might desire. However, whatever wisdom or error one may find in the decision arrived at, the verbatim or photograph system of reporting the speeches has been completely left in the shade, as unreasonable, if practicable.

Now, let us turn our eyes to other countries. Of course I have not, so far as they are concerned, as much information, or with the same fulness of detail, as I happen to possess for England. However, one can arrive at a very fair and accurate conclusion by taking, as an expression of opinion on the particular point here discussed, the various rules enforced in the countries where there exist official systems for the publication of the debates in Parliament. By the tabulated return

published in the "Transactions of the International Shorthand Congress" held in London in 1887, we find that in eleven countries, namely, Canada, Australia, India, America, Germany, France, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Norway, comprising all the countries from which answers reached the Congress, the members have the right to revise their speeches. To that list must be added the Argentine Republic, Austria, Hungaria, as can be seen by the proceedings of the Paris Congress. Now, to have established such a rule, it is obvious that in those countries the legislators must have thoroughly discussed the various ways of reporting speeches, the verbatim system as well as all the others; that such a discussion must also have been enlightened by the opinion of the experienced shorthand writers. If this is so — and I think that it holds good — I believe I have the right to conclude that the photograph system has been found "unreasonable" everywhere,— to use the expression of Speaker Peel; and that in this general rule, adopted universally, we have the highest expression of opinion, not only of experts in the matter, but also of the men mostly interested in having a good report made of what they say on public questions. It is a verdict worth the consideration of all who desire to form their judgment on this point: to disregard it would be committing a blunder. For why should the stenographer have too much respect for poorly constructed sentences, or any like defects, when the speaker has the right to correct them? Why should the shorthand writer who is an educated man, not himself do that kind of work, and save so much trouble to the speaker?

I think I have shown that the opinion universally prevailing amongst the professional experts and public men in all countries is in favor of a *revision* or *rearrangement* of the speeches as taken down by shorthand. I might stop here; for this demonstration conclusively shows that the contrary opinion has no real foundation on which to lay its claims to the best judgment of shorthand writers; but a few further observations may not be out of place.

Why should the general experience, both amongst stenographers and public men, point to the necessity of revision in the transcription of notes? There must be very strong reasons for that. There are, indeed; and I will try to mention merely a few of them.

The publication of a speech has not only for its object to interest those who may read it ; it gives also very valuable material for history. Now, is it not far better for history to have the real expression of the *mind* of a public man, than the mere words he has uttered, which words might only be *lapsi lingua* ? Is it not a fact that the *bona fide* extemporizer, however able and educated he may be, is always liable to miss the real or proper expression necessary to convey the absolute meaning he has in his mind ? What advantage would it be, for historical pursuits, to have hundreds of words, perfectly useless ? for it must be borne in mind that the speaker generally feels that his phraseology is not adequate to his thought, and strives to make himself understood, and for that purpose comes back upon the same point until he has found the necessary words to convey his meaning. It may also happen, and does, that although the speaker may feel his sentence is not what it should be, and that neither his hearers nor those who will read his speech, will quite make out what he intended to express at a particular point in his argument, because the proper words did not present themselves to his mind at the moment,—it may happen that he will forget, in the heat of his extemporization, to come back to this point and make himself clear. Hence the necessity of the speaker's revision, as established everywhere. If a contrary practice prevailed, most speeches would be worthless on account of their obscurity, or would redound to the discredit of the speakers themselves. In the revision, on the other hand, history has really what a public man intended to say,—his real and deliberate thoughts and opinion. As Mr. Max Backler said at the Paris Congress:—"The authenticity of a speech consists in the revision made by the speaker."

Just fancy what a historical treasure it would be if we had most of the speeches delivered by the great orators of ancient Rome and Greece, revised by themselves ! But the same speeches would be almost worthless, if they were only photographs ; for they would contain so many apparent contradictions that there would be material for endless controversies amongst historians. Even as it is, with so few left of those great productions, is there not enough of this kind of discussion ?

But that is not all; and we must not lose sight of the fact that, especially in our modern parliaments, the greatest bulk of the debates is made under the impulse of extemporization. But few speakers have the time to prepare the line of argument they desire to use. Very often they have to speak at a moment's notice; and although they have their general principles to guide them, they nevertheless have not the leisure to think, to ponder in the way they would desire over what they will say; hence, diffuseness in their utterances. It often happens that a public orator when he rises to speak does not intend to continue at any length, but many incidents may arise to generate currents of thought, which, though akin to his general feelings, are at first vague and uncertain in his mind; after a few sentences they may come out clearly and distinctly. Why present the first confused words when the speaker was laboring for precisely what he repeats afterward in distinct and perhaps glowing language? Why keep those ugly repetitions which owe their existence in the speech solely to the fact that the speaker had no time, even in his mind, to fix and arrange his utterances in a presentable shape? For it must not be forgotten that there is a great difference between the impression given by a speech heard, and the very same speech read. The former impression might be a very bright one, indeed, while the latter might fill one with a feeling of astonishment, perhaps something worse, when both were compared in the experience of the same individual. I have gone through the process not once, but many times, and never could I find even a shadow of the real emotion I had experienced on hearing the speaker himself. Sometimes that emotion had gotten hold of me whilst taking my shorthand notes, and when I had to make my transcription it seemed to me that the words were not the same, for they did not longer impress my feelings to the same degree. Why? Because afterward I did not have the powerful magnetism of a brilliant speaker to move me, such as Mons. Laurier or Mons. Chapeau. The same thing happens also to an ordinary hearer. And, strange to say, but true as strange, one who is called an ordinarily good speaker,—that is, a man destitute of those brilliant personal qualities which go so far to give one the much coveted reputation of a great orator,—produces the reverse impression. A friend of mine who dwells in Paris, who had several times heard Thiers and Gambetta, told me that the

former was a most disagreeable man to hear, while the latter charmed even his most ardent opponents; and he used to add: — "I never could read with artistic pleasure one speech of Gambetta, though they must have been rearranged; and I was always delighted to read those of Thiers, who was reported almost verbatim, without any change in the phraseology." I can add, that my experience confirms that conclusion.

A French writer of tragedies used to say, when submitting his writings to friends in order to have them thoroughly criticised before they were acted at the theatre: — "*Do not spare them; for tout ce qui est coupé, n'est pas sifflé.*" And in those words there is a good deal more truth than poetry. Applying the same saying to speech reporting, I would say, that the best reported speech is not the one which contains every word uttered by the speaker, but the *best arranged* one, which also retains the *largest possible* quantity of the very words taken down. For it is almost an axiom amongst men of the profession, that the more a speech is rearranged, the more the author thinks it is verbatim!

After due consideration of all this, is it possible to adopt the view of Dr. Zeibig, when he says that the report of a speech should be but a literal reproduction of the words uttered? "should resemble a photograph?" Although I profess the greatest respect for the opinion of such an eminent man as he, I contend, nevertheless, that, as Speaker Peel said, "it would be unreasonable, if practicable." But is it, in matters of public discourse, even practicable? I humbly think not. The best that a shorthand writer can possibly do is to take down every word uttered; he cannot go any farther. Dr. Zeibig seems to believe that the duty of a stenographer is essentially similar whether he takes down the evidence of a witness, or a speech in a legislative hall. That is a great mistake. No court of law would allow, for instance, a witness to answer by a mere action or sign of the head, or shoulders; he would have to speak, and say distinctly, in so many words, what he intended to convey. The same rule does not apply to the public speaker. While the latter can use, and does, very largely, gesticulations as a supplement to his sentences, the former cannot do it. How would a stenographer be able to make good the absence of words, rendered useless for the hearers by the use of gesticulations, if he could add one word to his notes?



That idea is very well expressed, although in slightly enlarged form, in Mr. Rose's paper of last year, when he says:—

"In this country we have all had our experience. The great American orator and statesman is so occupied with ideas that he has no time for the consideration of such simple things as words. He generally makes use of the first ones that come handy ; and if they fall short in any way of expressing his ideas, he supplements them with suggestive gesticulations, or leaves it for his hearers to supply the deficiency from their imagination ; and if his speech is to be published, he expects the stenographer to not only revise it, round out the periods, and add facts and figures, but he expects him to decorate, embellish, and polish, to the extent that his constituents will be fairly dazzled, and be compelled to wear smoked glasses in order to read it comfortably."

Nor is the speaker to be blamed for sometimes using very largely the mode of suggestive gesticulations to complete the meaning of his sentences, when his words fail to do so ; for, speaking without having had time to write out what he intended to say, he has the right to use every proper means in his power to arrive at his object. Now, the primary object of a public speaker is to convince ; and who would declare that gesticulations have no part in that process ? He may convince by broken sentences or sentences constructed in such a way as to be unreadable, but "skilfully supplemented by suggestive gesticulations," as Mr. Rose puts it.

But I find in Dr. Zeibig's own lines a proof that the photograph system is not and cannot be practicable. He admits himself, in the following words, the necessity of the shorthand writer's revision : "That the stenographer may correct slight grammatical errors and slips of the tongue on the spot, is, on the other hand, a matter of course." But even that might be considered by some as "an embellishment of speeches," as the Doctor puts it in another part of his paper ; and this he condemns as against his theory, which he deems to be the best. Who will draw the line and say authoritatively, "This is only a slip of the tongue?" etc. This is not merely a question to amuse the gallery, for Lord Halsbury, already quoted, with his logical mind, has thought proper to examine it, and here is what he thinks :

"\* \* \* Sometimes a correction of grammar would lead to too much alteration. If you were to correct an incoherent or ungrammatical sentence, you might have to reconstruct it. Because I think what a speaker very often does is this: he begins with the theory of a sentence in his mind, and he reconstructs and rearranges his sentence entirely; and he would have to do that with the report." The distinguished Doctor gives what follows as an argument:

"Then, in case a speaker should have violated the laws of oratory or of syntax, he would be more likely to be on his guard and not transgress those rules in the future. When the speakers exert themselves to learn to speak, then only can political eloquence in our parliaments be revived."

I really do not object to the speakers exerting themselves to learn to speak, and I think to do so would be very commendable indeed; but this argument seems to me to ignore the too well-known weaknesses of human nature. I have been a parliamentary reporter for the last twenty years; I have published, in book-form, over 15,000 pages of debates; and I must say that I have never met with a public man who admitted to the poor shorthand writer that once he may have made the slightest mistake. And I am not the only one who has had that sad experience. All my confrères speak in the same strain. One of them told me once what I shall never forget:—"The worse the speaker, the more he pinches on the unfortunate stenographer." He who said those words was an old hand. I am pretty nearly an "old hand" myself, now, and my unbroken experience declares that the statement is true. For one good-natured public man who will come to you and tell you good words, there are scores who will denounce your work, no matter how much better their speeches have been made by your labor and anxiety. After such an experience, how can one hope, by "photographing," to induce those speakers not to transgress the laws of oratory or of syntax, or exert themselves to learn to speak? I remember an incident which happened to one of my confrères who is with me now on the Dominion Debates staff for the House of Commons. Mr. Owens was then reporter of the *Montreal Gazette*, and was doing reporting duty during the session of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec. One day he resolved upon reporting verbatim,—and truly verbatim—a certain member who was very fond indeed of speaking, but who could hardly

put words in the right place, or construct a sentence that meant any thing. All that was credited to him in the newspapers — and, of course, there was a good deal — consisted of reports specially “cooked” in the reporters’ room. My friend Owens sat down to work one night when the said speaker was on his feet. He had not said ten words before he was absolutely mixed up, as usual. Mr. Owens, a witty Irishman, carefully noted down every word, no matter how it came out, in the deluge of very noisy sounds made by the would-be speaker. Of course, this method was not extended to the whole speech. The next day the *Gazette* greatly attracted the attention of the members in the reading-room, for there, in the great organ, in black and white, were two or three paragraphs of *verbatim* reporting of that man’s speech of the preceding evening. He was one of the first to read it. He got into such a fury that, having met my unfortunate friend in the lobby, he put his fist in the reporter’s face. My friend got a black-eye and a bleeding nose as a reward for his ability and faithfulness as a verbatim or “photograph” stenographer and transcriber. There was a correction given, and received; but who would deny that it was received on the wrong side? I need not say that Mr. Owens avoided repeating the experience. He would be the last to believe in Dr. Zeibig’s method of *teaching* speakers to exert themselves to conform to the laws of oratory or of syntax. He would be only too happy if they would exert themselves not to transgress the good old law that protects the person of every human being from assault, whether that person be a “photograph verbatim” reporter, or follow some safer calling.

Mr. Rose quotes his own experience in the matter — which experience, by the way, is less tragical — and, as will be seen by the following extract, has arrived at the same conclusion :

“I once undertook to reform a lawyer by the method suggested by our distinguished friend, Doctor Zeibig. I held up before him the following question which he had propounded to a witness : —

“Now, assuming the west line of Cross street to pass east of that hickory tree about three feet, can you tell, on this map, — assuming that this west line is east of that hickory tree about three feet, — the center of it, — the center of the hickory tree, — that the west line is about three feet east, — the Beard line, — of the hickory tree, — can you tell where your west line would

strike these lots 4 and 5, assuming that this map is made in accordance with the line I have last described,—that is, a line about three feet further east at the hickory tree, than this is,—the west line?”

“The result was not entirely what I had hoped it would be; and since then that lawyer does not think I am much of a stenographer.

And here is the final opinion of Mr. Rose on that reform scheme:—

“I was once of opinion that this great defect in our public speakers might be corrected, or at least remedied, by concert of action among stenographers,—by calling attention to the fact, and that our suggestion would be kindly accepted, and a little more attention be given to separating the ‘golden grains’ from the mass of chaff; but experience has taught me differently; and my conclusions are, that we must, for the present at least, wait for some other agency to bring about the reformation, and must continue to act, as we have in the past, not only as harvesters in the fields of oratory, but must do the threshing, separate the wheat from the tares, and get the crop ready for market.”

From the report of the discussion that took place on Mr. Rose's paper, I pick out the following lines:—

“MR. ROSE—The trouble with the subject suggested by Prof. Zeibig does not arise in the reporting of the words of the speaker, but rather in the copying out of the *exact* words.

“MR. LITTLE—Well, a man is a fool who does that.

“MR. ROSE—He says that the German stenographers submit a literal translation for the reformation of the speaker.

“THE PRESIDENT—Undoubtedly the best speeches are made by stenographers.

“MR. LITTLE—I do not think there is the slightest question but that many a man's reputation is made by the man who is reporting him; that is, if a stenographer has head enough to pick out the sentences that ought not to go in a man's speech, and to put in what ought to go in,

“THE PRESIDENT—Speakers never recognize the fact that the stenographer has done any thing except to follow him verbatim.

“MRS. BURNZ—The speaker thinks that the revised report is what he meant to say.

"Mr. LAW — The report is looked upon as accurate, if the English is good and it reads smoothly."

Go where you like, read the opinion of experts (and I can say that I have seen a good deal either in the stenographic press or in documents and books on the subject of shorthand), and I have never found anywhere, except in Dr. Zeibig, a practical stenographer who contended that in the matter of a speech, the shorthand writer was to act as a mere machine, *e. g.*, like a phonograph. Of course, occasionally one will meet with a young hand who, boasting of his two-hundred-words-a-minute ability, will tell you that he has done this kind of work to the satisfaction of the speaker; but who believes him? No; a stenographer must not be a mere automaton — a mere machine; he has a much higher duty to accomplish,—a duty which gives a brightness to his profession that would be wanting if it was misunderstood or forgotten. A stenographer worthy of that name looks to a higher conception of his art; he must not be what is described by Mr. Prévost, a great French authority on the matter, quoted by Dr. Zeibig in his paper, when he writes:

"Je me resumerai en prévenant le sténographe dont le travail ne peut être soumis au contrôle de l'orateur, qu'il ne doit l'entreprendre qu'en s'inspirant des sentiments les plus dévoués à celui dont il devient le collaborateur obligé. Avec du mauvais vouloir, des préventions, ou une intelligence étroite de ses devoirs, le traducteur peut devenir infidèle par trop d'exactitude. inexact à force de textualité, tourner en dérision l'homme éloquent par excellence, celui que la passion anime, possède, grandit, domine, le véritable, le grand, le seul orateur. \* \* \*

"La meilleure note sténographique n'a toute sa valeur que grâce au tact qui préside à son arrangement. Rien donc n'est plus dangereux que la collaboration d'un sténographe pur sang, d'un dextre attrapeur de mots, d'un de ces ouvriers trop nombreux qui, infatués de leur petit savoir, méconnaissent sottement l'autorité des artistes qui les guident et qui s'efforcent d'honorer, d'élever la profession commune."

#### TRANSLATION.

[I will sum up by warning the stenographer whose work cannot be controlled by the speaker, that he must undertake it only with the greatest devotedness toward him whose fel-

low laborer he necessarily becomes. With ill-will, prejudice, or a narrow-mindedness, the translator may become false by too much accuracy, inaccurate by following too slavishly the text, bring ridicule on the eloquent man, above all on the one whom passion animates, possesses, dignifies, dominates,—the real, the great, the only orator.

The best shorthand notes can acquire all their value best by the judgment brought to bear on their arrangement. Nothing, therefore, is more dangerous than the collaboration of a thorough-bred stenographer, of a clever word-catcher, of one of those too-numerous workers who, infatuated with their little ability, overlook stupidly the authority of artists who guide them, and who strive to do honor to, and elevate, their common calling.]

I have rarely read a picture of the photograph, or would-be stenographer more sarcastic, more ironical, than the one contained in those few lines, or, at the same time, one more truthfully realistic. Those "word-catchers" (*attrapeurs de mots*), as Mr. Prévost called them, do a great deal of harm to the profession in leading the public, unfamiliar with its real requirements, to believe that it does not amount to much, after all, since it is purely a question of rapidity, not of intelligence, not of good, sound judgment enlightened by a first-class education — as I will, in a few moments, show to be the case,—but merely of automatical dexterity.

It seems to me useless to attempt to say, in plainer words, after what precedes, that I am in favor of the opinion prevailing universally among experts and public men of every country, that a revision *must* be made by the stenographer, in the transcription of his notes, both for the sake of the speaker's own reputation and in the reporter's own interest; because if he dared once to indulge in the "photograph" business, in absolute literalness, while transcribing his notes, he would soon learn what a blunder he had committed, and would cease to be in a position to try it again, because he would be very quickly turned out of work.

The question remains, how far that correction or revision, as you will like to call it, should go? What limits should the shorthand writer ascribe to himself in that delicate and, I may say, dangerous task? I shall examine that point as a conclusion to the present paper. I shall proceed by quoting the

opinions of experts in different countries who have had a long and practical experience. In the extracts that follow will be found also, as a matter of course, an answer to the question above discussed, whether there must be a revision or rearrangement, or not, in the transcription of shorthand notes. As both are intimately connected, I cannot choose my quotations on one point without including what has been said on the other. I am aware that it will give a little more expansion to the present paper than it should have, because I have already given a good many authorities on the first point. I do not regret it, however, for it will amount fully to a verdict of an international jury composed of the very best men; men having all the knowledge necessary to give an opinion deserving the highest respect, because it carries with it the best possible authority—that of learning and practical experience. As for the question of the limits of the revision by the shorthand writer, I feel that, in giving the opinion of those who have had a long experience, I am fulfilling my duty in a far better way than by giving simply my own humble judgment.

Dr. Zeibig has quoted Mr. Hyppolite Prévost's opinion; but as he has not thought proper to give the whole of it, I will complete what is missing by a fuller extract, in order to fully present the views of such an eminent authority. Mr. Prévost has been for a great many years chief of the stenographic service of the French Houses of Parliament, and, as such, has acquired great experience:—

“Je suppose maintenant le traductem en face d'une sténographie irréprochable d'exactitude. Pourra-t-il sans dommage pour la gloire, pour l'honneur, pour la considération de l'orateur, la reproduire mot a' mot et la livrer telle quelle a' l'impression? Ce sera bien rare et par exception seulement. Anisi que nous l'avons déjà dit antérieurement, la parole oratoire en général, la véritable et loyale improvisation surtout, résiste a' une transcription judaïquement littérale. Il importe donc de faire sur la traduction sténographique un travail discret mais incessant d'épuration. Ce travail consiste le plus souvent a' reconstituer une phrase autant que possible avec ses éléments natifs euxmêmes, mais mieux distribués, de façon que grâce a' sa correction, a' la liberté de ses allures, la nouvelle version défie l'auditeur, et au besoin l'autem, de surprendre les traces des retouches nombreuses subies par l'oeuvre fruste tombée des lèvres de l'orateur. \* \* \*

"Ce n'est pas tout. Pour réussir dans cette oeuvre délicate, entièrement d'initiative et d'effacement, le rédacteur sténographe doit se sentir les aptitudes spéciales, ce qu'on appelle le *tempérament* de la fonction. \* \* \* La fin qu'il doit uniquement se proposer est de rendre la lecture du discours aussi coulante qu'en a été l'audition, et de faire en sorte que le lecteur partage les émotions, subisse les impressions de l'assemblée devant laquelle le discours a été prononcé. Voilà tout ; il est vraie la tâche, offre comme cela, assez de difficultés. \* \* \*

"On ne saurait tracer des règles précises au goût éclairé, qui seul doit présider à cette transformation de la langue parlée en langue écrite.

#### TRANSLATION.

[Now, I suppose the translator in presence of an absolutely accurate stenography. Can he, without damaging the reputation, the honor, the good standing, of the speaker, reproduce it word for word and give it out in such a form to be printed? Very seldom will this occur, and only as an exceptional case. As we have already stated, oratorical utterances, as a general rule, above all, the real and loyal extemporization, are incompatible with a slavishly literal transcription. It is therefore necessary to submit the shorthand translation to a discreet but unceasing work of expurgation. This work usually consists in reconstructing a sentence with, as much as possible, its original elements, but distributed in a better way, in order that, thanks to its correctness, its easy style, the traces of the numerous changes made in the speeches as delivered, which form the new version, cannot even be detected by the hearers nor by the author.

This is not all. To succeed in this delicate task, where one in duty bound must take good care to conceal his corrections, as well as the full responsibility of taking the initiative in so doing, the shorthand editor must feel that he possesses the special qualifications for this work. The sole object that he must have in view is, to make the reading of the speech as easy as has been the hearing of it, and that the reader shall feel the emotions and the impressions of the assembly, who heard the speech. That is all ; true, the task, as above shown, involves many difficulties. One cannot lay down precise rules to the enlightened taste which alone must guide one in the work of transforming a spoken language into a written one.]



The very same idea is expressed by Mr. Reed in the extracts given in this paper. Those two great authorities, French and English, have met and agreed absolutely on the same point,—that is to say, on the necessity of the stenographer's rearrangement of the shorthand transcription. And further on, Mr. Prévost adds :—

“Le sténographe, qui comprend de haut sa mission, ne saurait apporter trop de soin à cette partie qui consiste, tout en conservant à chaque orateur sa physionomie individuelle, à émonder sa traduction textuelle des membres des phrases et des mots parasites, à opérer la suppression ou la modification de ces locutions insuffisantes par lesquelles passe toujours plus ou moins laborieusement la pensée du véritable improvisateur avant d'atteindre l'expression exacte ; à resserrer, à clarifier la forme souvent diffuse, étendue, à réaliser enfin avec prudence et réserve cette révision grammaticale et littéraire, dans de certaines limites, occure de goût et de tact, dont le plus grand mérite est précisément de dérober ses traces au lecteur, à l'orateur lui-même.”

#### TRANSLATION.

[The stenographer who comprehends his mission in its highest sense could not bestow too much care upon that part of it which consists, while entirely in preserving the individual peculiarities of each speaker, in purging his literal translation of parasitical clauses, phrases and words, in effecting a suppression or modification of those insufficient forms of speech, by reason of which the thought of the real extemporizer is always expressed more or less laboriously before attaining to an exact expression ; in abbreviating, in clarifying the form, often diffuse and scattered ; in realizing, in bringing about, in short, with prudence and reserve, that grammatical and literary revision, within certain limits, which is a work of taste and judgment, and whose greatest merit is precisely to conceal its traces to the reader, and to the speaker himself.]

“Le sténographe qui néglige ce point de vue n'a certainement pas réfléchi sérieusement aux exigences de sa profession. Il n'a pas été frappé, comme il convenait, des différences essentielles qui existent entre le style parlé et le style écrit ; différences qu'il s'agit de faire, autant que possible, disparaître dans la traduction. La fidélité d'un tel sténographe sera

cruelle; elle fera le désespoir du lecteur autant que celui de l'orateur. Il n'y aura plus la' une traduction, mais une trahison : *traduttore, traditore*. Sa sténographie inexorablement *exacte* ne sera plus l'image de la parole, elle en offrira la charge, la caricature, car le discours qui aura charmé, convaincu, entraîné l'auditeur, heurtera, fatiguera, initera le lecteur." \* \* \*

#### TRANSLATION.

[The stenographer who overlooks this point of view, has certainly not thought seriously of the exigencies of his profession. He has not been struck, as he should have been, by the essential differences that exist between the style spoken and the written one,—differences which must, as much as possible, disappear in the transcription. The faithfulness of such a stenographer would be cruel; it would annoy the reader as well as the speaker. There would be no translation, but a treachery : *traduttore, traditore*. His stenography, absolutely accurate, would be no more a reflection of the speech; it would be an exaggerated representation of it,—in fact, a caricature; for the speech which would have pleased, convinced, won over the hearer, would shock, worry and annoy the reader.]

Mr. Emilio Inzaurraga, whose views I am about to give, began the study of shorthand in 1856. Born in Uruguay, he went to Buenos-Ayres, Argentine Republic, in 1858, where he contributed very largely to the establishment of the official stenographic bureau of that country. He devoted, I may say, his whole life to that profession, either as a parliamentary practitioner or as a professor. It is useless for me to add, that his opinion must be considered as having a great authority in the matter. Here is what he said, in a very able paper on shorthand addressed to and read before the Paris International Shorthand Congress of 1889:—

“La liberté dont peuvent user les tachygraphes parlementaires chargés de reproduire intégralement et fidèlement tout ce qui a été dans les discours est beaucoup plus étroites. Que ceux-ci soient bons ou mauvais, corrects ou incorrects, longs ou courts, les tachygraphes doivent les reproduire avec la plus grande fidélité. C'est dans cette tâche que se rencontrent fréquemment les difficultés pour ces malheureux photographes de la parole qui ont la mauvaise chance d'avoir a'

faire une bonne épreuve avec un original en plusieurs points défectueux.

“ Comment corriger ces défauts sans défigurer la ressemblance, aux yeux de l'orateur lui-même et de ceux qui l'ont entendu prononcer son discours ?

“ Jusqu'où peut aller la faculté de correction dont doit user le tachygraphe ? Peut-il agir arbitrairement ? En aucune manière. Il doit tenir compte de nombreuses circonstances qui peuvent concourir, suivant les cas, à restreindre cette licence et à l'empêcher de se convertir en grave défaut qui viendrait déprécier au lieu de le servir, le travail du praticien.

“ Elles sont bien variées les difficultés que peut rencontrer le tachygraphe, et le chemin qu'il est obligé de parcourir depuis le commencement jusqu'à la fin de sa carrière est bien incertain.

“ Tous les hommes sont nés comme on le dit vulgairement, avec le don de la parole ; et cependant il y a beaucoup d'individus qui, quoique très compétents pour aborder les questions soumises à leur appréciation, et qui, bien qu'ayant rempli comme écrivains et publicistes un rôle brillant dans le pays qu'ils représentent, n'ont pas le don naturel nécessaire pour occuper une place importante comme orateurs.

“ Leur illustration et leur talent comme écrivains, leur juste renommée comme littérateurs ne permettent pas au public de croire que leurs productions oratoires puissent être incorrectes ou non-complètes ; mais comme il y a une grande différence entre la parole et l'écriture, il arrive que les paroles qu'ils emploient ne sont pas toujours les plus propres à exprimer leurs pensées.

“ Un publiciste, un homme d'Etat, un littérateur jouit d'une réputation méritée par son style élégant et par ses écrits que ses collègues et le public ne se lassent pas de lire ; le tachygraphe ou plutôt le photographe qui ferait du personnage une photographie toute différente de celle que l'on connaît serait vraiment bien à plaindre.”

#### TRANSLATION.

[Much more limited is the liberty to be taken by the parliamentary shorthand writers who have to reproduce entirely and faithfully all that is said in the speeches. Be they good or bad, correct or incorrect, long or short, the shorthand writers must reproduce them with the utmost faithfulness. It is in

this task that are to be frequently met many difficulties for those unfortunate photographers of the speech who have the ill-luck to be obliged to turn out a good proof with an original imperfect in many points.

How can one correct these imperfections without, in the opinion of the speaker himself and of those who heard him deliver his speech, spoiling the resemblance?

How far can the exercise of the right of correcting be used by the shorthand writer?

Can he act arbitrarily? In no way can he do that. He must bear in mind the numerous circumstances which might contribute, according to the nature of the case, to limit that liberty and prevent it from becoming a grave defect which would depreciate the work of the practitioner instead of making it better.

Varied are the difficulties that face the shorthand writer, and very uncertain is the road that he has to travel from the beginning to the end of his career.

Generally speaking, men are born with the gift of speech, and, nevertheless, there are many individuals who, although very competent to handle the questions submitted to their appreciation, and who, although having filled a brilliant career as writers and publicists in the country which they represent, are not gifted to occupy an important position as speakers.

Their celebrity and their talent as writers, their well-deserved fame as literary men, forbid the public from believing that their oratorical productions may be imperfect or incomplete; but as there is a vast difference between the speech and the written production, it so happens that the words used are not always the fittest to convey their thoughts.

A publicist, a statesman, a scholar, enjoys a well-deserved reputation on account of his elegant style and by his writings, which his colleagues and the public never get tired of reading. The shorthand writer, or rather the photographer, who would make a photograph of the man quite different from the one generally known, would, in reality, deserve to be pitied.]

Speaking of Mr. Jean-Baptiste Joseph Breton, whose brilliant career began on the 10th of August, 1792, when representative government was established in France, Mr. Inzauraga adds this :—

"Cet infatigable collaborateur de l'histoire du parlement et des tribunaux français, a été pendant trente-quatre ans sténographe du *Moniteur*, du *Journal des Débats*, et de la *Gazette des Tribunaux*, sans que jamais ni les orateurs ni les juges aient fait une réclamation quelconque pour une inexactitude ou une infidélité dans les nombreux discours qu'il a publiés *in extenso*, en corrigeant discrètement comme il savait le faire les innombrables fautes qui se produisent dans l'improvisation.

"On voit que M. Breton n'était pas seulement un habile sténographe mécanique, mais un interprète intelligent qui mettait au service de sa brillante carrière ses connaissances littéraires, employant sa perspicacité, son discernement et son tact à séparer le bon et le mauvais, ce qui devait être conservé intégralement et ce qu'il fallait modifier dans les discours qu'il publiait avec le consentement des orateurs. C'est là le grand mérite d'un bon sténographe.

"Cet exemple si notable n'a jamais été oublié par moi, et je constate qu'aucune leçon ne m'a été aussi productive dans l'exercice de ma profession."

#### TRANSLATION.

[This indefatigable worker on the history of the French parliament and courts of justice, has been for thirty-four years shorthand writer for the *Moniteur*, *Journal des Debats*, and the *Gazette des Tribunaux*, and neither the speakers nor the judges have ever made any complaint whatever for inaccuracy in the numerous speeches he published *in extenso*, although he corrected, as he knew how to do it, the many imperfections to be found in the extemporization.

Thus one sees that Mr. Breton was not only an expert mechanical stenographer, but also an intelligent interpreter who used for the benefit of his brilliant career his literary training, employing his tact, his discernment and his judgment to divide the good seed from the chaff, which ought to be entirely preserved from what was required to be changed in the speeches he published with the approval of the speakers. There lies the great merit of a good stenographer.

This remarkable instance I have never forgotten, and I declare that no advice has been so beneficial to me in the exercise of my profession.]

Those are the words deliberately written by the *doyen* of the stenographers of the Argentine Republic.

Those views are also entertained by a younger man, though of considerable experience and ability, who is now chief of the stenographic service of the Senate of the same country, Mr. Angel Menchaca. Here is what he said to the Paris Congress :

"Bien des gens croient que la tâche du sténographe est purement matérielle et mécanique, que c'est un être inconscient qui recueille automatiquement les paroles de l'orateur. Comme ils sont loin de comprendre toute l'intelligence qu'il faut à un sténographe pour être à la hauteur de sa mission !

"La rapidité et la clarté qui' sont les principaux objectifs de l'art sténographique, ne peuvent s'unir pour résister au torrent de la parole, et de là une insuffisance imatérielle à laquelle le sténographe doit supplier, soit par des prédispositions naturelles qui lui donnent une grande dextérité de main, soit par une forte préparation intellectuelle. \* \* \*

"Je sais bien que la parole parlée est toute différente de la parole écrite ; entre les deux il existe la même différence qu'entre l'audition et la lecture ; l'ouïe est bien plus indulgente que la vue. Comme il serait désenchanté, celui qui, enthousiasmé d'un discours qu'il aurait entendu prononcer, le reliait ensuite, reproduit avec la plus exacte et aussi la plus désespérante fidélité ! C'est qu'alors, la personnalité de l'orateur, ayant disparu, le discours n'est plus qu'un corps sans âme, privé du son de la voix et des gestes de l'orateur, qui accentuent sa pensée et lui donnent du relief. Voilà pourquoi le sténographe intelligent ne doit pas faire une traduction scrupuleusement exacte, il doit tâcher de faire disparaître les incorrections et les redites, surtout quand il s'agit d'une improvisation. Si l'on n'agissait pas ainsi, la fidélité judaïque du sténographe deviendrait cruelle et serait le désespoir de l'orateur et du lecteur ; ce ne serait pas une traduction, mais une 'trahison,' comme dit Prévost."

#### TRANSLATION.

[Many believe the task of the stenographer to be purely a material and mechanical one ; that he is a mere machine, taking automatically the words of the speaker. Those who entertain that opinion are very far from having an idea of the amount of intelligence a stenographer must possess to be able to discharge his duties thoroughly.

Swiftness and clearness, which are two of the leading objects of the shorthand art, cannot act together in a way to match the torrent of words spoken; hence, a material insufficiency, which the shorthand writer must supply, either by a great hand expertness, the result of natural qualities, or by a strong intellectual preparation.

I know fully well that an extempore speech is quite different from a written one; between the two there exists the same difference as between the hearing and reading; the sense of hearing is much more indulgent than the sight. How disappointed one would be who, charmed with a speech he had heard, should read it afterward, reproduced with the utmost accuracy and, also, with the most despairing faithfulness! For, then, the personality of the speaker having disappeared, the speech is but a body without a soul, deprived of the music of the voice and of the speaker's gesticulations, which marked his thought and gave it relief.

Therefore, the intelligent shorthand writer must not give a transcription literally exact; he must try to take away the imperfections and repetitions,—above all, when it is an extemporization. If not so, the absolute accuracy of the stenographer would become cruel, and would annoy the speaker as well as the reader; it would no longer be a translation, but a "treason," as Prévost says.]

And now he goes still further into details :—

"Il est des orateurs, bien rares d'ailleurs, concis jusqu'à l'exageration, qui n'expériment jamais qu'une partie de leur idée et prétendent la compléter par des gestes plus ou moins significatifs; le sténographe qui ne peut reproduire cette dernière partie du discours se trouve comme le Fabius de Moratin, et est réduit à se contenter des fragments de phrases qu'il a recueillis et qu'il doit mettre en ordre et compléter plus tard. Ce genre d'orateurs est le plus difficile de tous, car il exige tout un travail d'interprétation; souvent il faut ajouter des phrases entières au discours prononcé, et ce, en ayant soin d'imiter le style pour que la chose ne se voie pas trop.

"I y a d'autres orateurs, ce sont les plus nombreux, qui sont diffus, qui se répètent sans cesse comme s'ils avaient affaire à des sourds, qui reviennent vingt fois sur la même idée. Il faut alors que le sténographe débrouille habilement

les choses; qu'il réunissent tous les fils épars, supprime les redites et les lieux communs, cherche les quelques branches où coule encore la sève a' travers toutes celles qui sont déjà se'chent; il faut qu'il donne une forme acceptable et claire a' la partie du discours qui doit être conservée; avec ces sortes d'orateurs on doit impitoyablement supprimer tout ce qui est obscur ou sans importance. \* \* \*

"Mais l'orateur ne doit jamais soupçonner le travail du sténographe; sans cela, s'il juge que les modifications ainsi apportées sont supérieures à ce qu'il a dit, son amour-propre en souffrira, ou bien il les trouvera mauvaises, ce qui a lien le plus souvent, car ces pères ont un grand amour pour leurs enfants, quelque difformes qu'ils soient, et il dira à ses collègues et à ses amis: Les sténographes ont dénaturer mon discours; d'une oeuvre remarquable ils ont fait une caricature, Il ne faut pas oublier que le meilleur artiste est toujours celui que sait le mieux cacher son art; ce n'est qui très rarement que le sténographe recevra les remerciements d'un orateur qui aura été satisfait de l'arrangement de son discours.

"Quant à la production littéraire, elle ne les satisfait jamais; ils ressemblent en cela au beau sexe, qui formule sans cesse des plaintes amères contre les photographes. Les femmes prétendent paraître toujours jeunes et belles, et, comme dit La Bruyère: 'La coquette oublie que le visage décele les années.' Beaucoup d'orateurs ont vraiment l'air d'ignorer que la valeur de leur intelligence est donné par leurs discours, car ce n'est pas en vain que Buffon a dit: Le style c'est l'homme." \* \* \*

#### TRANSLATION.

[There are speakers, of course very few in number, so extremely concise, who never express but a part of their ideas, and claim to complete their meaning by more or less suggestive gesticulations; the shorthand writer who cannot reproduce this latter part of the speech, finds himself in the position of Fabius de Moratin, and is obliged to content himself with fragments of sentences taken down, which he will have to arrange and complete later on. This kind of speakers are the worst of all, for they require a real interpretation; — complete sentences often have to be added to the speech as delivered, and in doing that, great care must be taken to imitate the speaker's style, in order to conceal this work of revision.



There are other speakers, their number is the largest, who are diffuse, who repeat the same thing over and over as if they were speaking to a post, and who come back twenty times on the same point. The shorthand writer must then clear up things; bring together the scattered ideas, suppress repetitions, common-place ideas, pick out, amongst those already sapless, the few branches where sap is still to be found; give a good and clear form to that part of the speech that must be preserved. With this kind of speakers, one must, without mercy, suppress all that is obscure and unimportant.

But the speaker must never suspect the existence of the shorthand writer's corrections; for if he does, he may think that the changes so made are better than what he said, and then his self-love will suffer thereby, or he may be of opinion that they are out of place — which is very often the case, for those fathers have a great love for their children, however deformed they may be, and he will tell his colleagues and friends: "The shorthand writers have disfigured my speech; from a remarkable work, they have made a caricature." It must be borne in mind that he is the best artist who succeeds in concealing his art. It is but very seldom that a shorthand writer will receive the thanks of a speaker who is satisfied with the style in which his speech appears.

As to the literal transcription, it never gives them satisfaction. They are, so far as that is concerned, like the fair sex, who always bitterly complain against photographers. Women claim to be always young and pretty, and, as LaBruyère says: "The coquette forgets that the face reveals the age." Many speakers seem really to ignore that the value of their intelligence is to be found in their speeches; for it is not in vain that Buffon has said: "Manners make the gentleman." ("Le style c'est l'homme.") ]

And in discussing the question of unity of a shorthand system: —

"Il y a des sténographes qui pensent que la reproduction des discours doit être la plus exacte et la plus textuelle possible, et que les fautes de forme ou les erreurs de fond doivent être mises sur le compte des orateurs. Il y en a d'autres, au contraire, qui estiment que l'on doit modifier avec le plus grand soin la forme, lorsqu'elle est défectueuse, et donner aux idées

une marche logique, restée inachevée au cours de l'improvisation.

"J'ai déjà dit quelques mots a' ce sujet. Je crois que ce sont deux procédés aussi inacceptable l'un que l'autre, car ils sont tous deux également éloignés du juste milieu. Il est indispensable de faire, dans la traduction de tout discours, certaines corrections de pure forme, qui consistent a' supprimer les répétitions, a' polir la phrase, a' éclaircir ce qui est diffus, mais sans altérer la pensée ni la manière propre à chacun de s'exprimer, afin que ce ne soit pas le sténographe qui parle, mais l'orateur, et que l'on puisse distinguer un homme des champs d'un poëte, un médecin d'un économiste, un légiste politicien et exalté d'un philosophe rêveur."

#### TRANSLATION.

[There are shorthand writers who claim that the reproduction of speeches must be absolutely accurate, and textual, and that speakers must be made accountable for all imperfections in the phraseology, and grave mistakes. There are others, on the contrary, who think that one must change, with the greatest care, the phraseology when defective, and give the ideas a logical course, left unfinished in the extemporization.

I have already said a few words on this subject. I believe that the one is as unacceptable as the other, for both are equally remote from the just medium. It is indispensable to make, in the transcription of any speech, certain corrections of mere form,—which consist in suppressing repetitions, rounding the sentences, making clear what is diffuse, but without weakening the idea or distorting the peculiar style of each speaker, in order that it may not be the shorthand writer who speaks, but the speaker, and one may make the distinction between a farmer and a poet, a physician and an economist, an over excited lawyer and a politician and a thoughtful philosopher.]

Mr. L. P. Guenin is a "sténographe reviseur" of the French Senate, a man of great practical experience, the author of many valuable works on shorthand. He has published a revised edition of the "Aimé-Paris" system. That is the system I write. It has been very successfully adapted to several foreign languages, and I am now working to make an adaptation of that system to the English, for my own private use. Mr. Guenin is an old practitioner, and very well conversant

with all matters connected with our profession. His professional standing is such a prominent one that he was chosen as vice-president of the Paris Congress. Interested in the task of presenting a study on the subject of writing-machines — the phonograph, etc., he acquitted himself most creditably. In the course of that study, speaking of the possible use of the phonograph, he gave his views on the mission of the stenographer in the following explicit terms : —

“ Quant aux assemblées parlementaires, y a - t - il un lecteur assez naïf pour croire un instant qu'il a sous les yeux le compte-rendu de la séance absolument telle qu'elle s'est produite, avec les interruptions, les conversations particulières souvent beaucoup plus entendues que la voix de l'orateur, les redites, les répétitions de celui-ci, ses recherches parfois confuses de l'idée, qu'il veut exprimer les bruits de promenades dans les couloirs et autour de la tribune ? Ne voit on pas qu'à travers tout ce chaos, il y a une oeuvre intelligente accomplie sur place par le sténographe, oeuvre qui consiste dans la séparation immédiate de tous les bruits inutiles, de tout ce qui ne touche pas au fond même de la question traitée, et dans la seule transcription du texte à reproduire ? Il y a là une première sélection absolument nécessaire, que ne savent pas effectuer beaucoup de personnes assistant aux séances, et pour lesquelles celles-ci apparaissent comme la confusion et le gâchis même.

“ Est-ce qu'avec le plus parfait des phonographes à venir il ne faudra plus faire ce travail ?

“ Mais, nous n'en sommes encore qu'au début de l'oeuvre du sténographe. Le texte de la séance est dégagé de tous les bruits étrangers à la discussion même ; va-t-il être publié tel quel ? Ce serait tout simplement vouloir ridiculiser les assemblées et les orateurs.

“ Un second travail intelligent est effectué alors par le sténographe, c'est la suppression de ces répétitions, de ces redites, de ces incorrections, auxquelles souvent l'auditeur, ne fait même pas attention, mais qui rendraient insupportable toute lecture d'un compte-rendu.

“ Puis vient un troisième travail qui exige de plus en plus une instruction étendue et des connaissances spéciales ainsi qu'une réelle faculté d'assimilation, c'est la revision des discours d'abord effectuée par les orateurs eux-mêmes puis après eux on a leur défaut et sur leur demande, par les sténo-

graphes-revisieurs. Entend-t-on dénier aux orateurs le droit de se revoir, de corriger s'il y a lieu la forme de leurs discours, de modifier des expressions qui, dans l'improvisation, ont inexactement ou incomplètement rendu leur pensée ?

"Nous voilà loin du phonographe et de la reproduction mécanique d'une séance ! Si on le désirait, d'ailleurs, et sans aucun appareil, il nous serait bien facile d'en transcrire une telle quelle ; nous sommes bien certains qu'on n'en ferait pas deux fois l'essai."

#### TRANSLATION.

[As to parliamentary bodies, is there a reader silly enough to believe for one moment that he has before him the report of the sitting absolutely as it happened, with the interruptions, private conversations often heard a good deal more than the speaker's utterances, repetitions of the latter, his fruitless efforts to find out the idea he wishes to express, the noise in the lobbies and around the tribune ? Is it possible that one cannot see that, from such a confusion, there is an intelligent labor performed on the very spot by the stenographer, which labor consists in putting aside all useless sounds, every thing that does not belong to the subject debated, and in taking down only what is the text to be reproduced ? There exists a first selection absolutely necessary, which many hearers cannot make, and which causes the sittings to appear to them as the very essence of confusion.

Is it possible to dispense with that labor, even with the most perfect phonographs to be invented ?

But we are only at the beginning of the stenographer's work. The text of the debates is separated from all the sounds not belonging to the discussion ;— can it be published in that form ? This would simply mean to throw ridicule on the assemblies and speakers.

A second and intelligent work is then made by the stenographer, by omitting these repetitions and imperfections, which escaped the attention of the hearer and would render intolerable the reading of the report.

In the next place comes a third revision that requires a larger instruction and special knowledge coupled with a real talent of assimilation ; it is the revision of speeches by the speakers themselves,—and after them, or in their stead, and at their request, by the revising stenographer. Is it meant to

deny to the speakers the right to revise, if need be, the phraseology of their speeches? To change words which, in the heat of the extemporization, have inaccurately or incompletely conveyed their meaning?

We are far away from the phonograph and from the mechanical reproduction of a sitting. If it was wanted, it would be easy for us to give out such a report, without any such machine. We are sure that nobody would like to have a second trial.]

All this has received confirmation at the hands of a body of very distinguished and very able men; I mean, l'Assemblée Nationale" of France, in 1848.

As a conclusion to all those extracts, let us see what was the manifest opinion of a great legislative body such as that of France, on what is the real duty of a stenographer when reporting the parliamentary debates. The report, of which I will give the following short extracts, was presented on the 5th of July, 1848, by M. Ducos, for and in the name of a Commission in which sat, as one of its members, M. Celestin Lagache, for a very long time Chief of the Stenographic Service of the French Parliament under the reign of King Louis Philippe, and who had been elected a member of l'Assemblée Nationale" after the Revolution of 1848. That report was unanimously adopted, and since then the shorthand organization for the reproduction of the debates which it suggested, has never been modified in the French Chambers. Referring to the duty of the stenographer, the report says:

"Il ne faudrait pas supposer, en effet, que pour être un bon sténographe il suffise de posséder certaines qualités en quelque sorte mécaniques. Il faut une réunion de conditions beaucoup plus larges.

"Nul ne reproduit fidèlement le discours d'un orateur, quelle que soit d'ailleurs la dextérité de sa main ou la délicatesse de son ouïe, si son intelligence n'a pas été préparée à ce travail par des études sérieuses, et si elle ne parvient pas à se mettre au niveau des matières toujours difficiles, souvent techniques, qui se traitent devant lui. \* \* \*

"Ajoutons que la fonction de sténographe ne consiste pas uniquement dans la reproduction littérale et pour ainsi dire matérielle de tous les sons qui,— dans le cours d'une improvisation plus ou moins longue, ont frappé son oreille. Quoique

la littéralité doit être le principal mérite de son oeuvre, sous sa plume doivent disparaître certaines incorrections de langage, certaines répétitions de mots ; des phrases ont quelque fois besoin d'être achevées par l'addition d'un ou de plusieurs mots échappés à l'orateur. Comment un sténographe pourrait-il accomplir cette oeuvre délicate s'il n'avait déjà une connaissance personnelle des questions qui forment l'aliment du discours ? ”

#### TRANSLATION.

[Indeed, it must not be supposed that, to be a good shorthand writer, it is sufficient to have certain qualities somewhat mechanical. Much wider qualifications are required.

Nobody will give a faithful report of a speaker's speech, whatever expertness he possesses, or whatever be the delicacy of his hearing, if his intelligence has not been trained to that work by serious studies, and if it does not quite make up the subject-matter, always hard to understand, and often of a technical character, which is debated.

We must add, that the duty of a shorthand writer does not wholly consist of the literal and, so to say, material reproduction of all the sounds which, in the course of a more or less extensive extemporization, have reached his ear. Although literality must be the chief merit of his work, under his pen must disappear certain imperfections of language, certain repetitions of words ; sometimes sentences have to be completed, by adding one or several words left out by the speaker. How could a shorthand writer be in a position to accomplish that delicate task, if he had not beforehand a personal knowledge of the questions which are discussed.]

Every one who has an ordinary knowledge of the various requirements of shorthand work, knows also how good an education must be possessed by the stenographer to enter upon official duties, in all the different countries of Europe and America. Professor Zeibig himself quotes the regulations of several countries where, in the average, the shorthand writers must prove that they are graduates from high schools, or have attended high schools ; they must, in other cases, be shown to have had a scientific parliamentary training. Most members of the Stenographic Bureau of the Hungarian Parliament are doctors at law. In Saxony they must have obtained a degree of doctor of philosophy, or doctor at law.

In France, they must be bachelors of arts. In Italy, they must have obtained an academical license, at least, and must have a knowledge of the French language.

These conditions are required, not because the stenographer is expected to give all the words uttered like a mere automatic machine,—as the phonograph, for instance, could do far better than any human being,—but because he is expected to possess an intelligence highly cultivated, so that he shall be able to discharge his duties in a manner to bring credit upon himself and the parliament of which he is a devoted as well as an intelligent servant, or of the various public speakers he is called upon to report, as the case may be.

The higher you raise the qualifications and the duties of the shorthand profession, the higher will it stand in the estimation of public opinion, and the higher, too, will be the respect of the public for the gentlemen who devote their life to what, after all, deserves to be called the public good. This reminds me of a significant incident that took place almost twenty years ago, in a Committee of the Canadian House of Commons. With a short narration of that incident, which confirms the view first enunciated, I shall take my leave of you, gentlemen of the New York State Stenographers' Association, having accomplished my task, rendered so agreeable by the kindness and courtesy extended to me.

An inquiry was going on before that committee on a very important matter connected with public business; and, of course, the evidence was taken down by shorthand. It appears that some difficulty arose about the allowance to be given to the stenographers for their labor; and the matter having gone from bad to worse, the note-takers made a "strike," and wholly quitted work. The secretary of the committee was instructed to wire to Montreal, in order to have some shorthand writers to replace the strikers. New hands went up to Ottawa, but on being informed of the facts and circumstances of the case, they refused also to work; evincing, by the way, a remarkable *esprit de corps*, which one would be so happy to find always and everywhere. The members of the committee felt themselves rather in a bad fix, and assembled to talk the matter over.

In the course of their deliberations, one member remarked: "Why! thirty dollars an hour for the stenographers! that is

a very big price. [Of course it included also the transcription.] I think I will resign as member, to become a shorthand writer; that would pay me much better." Thereupon Mr. Blake,— then one of the foremost leaders of the Liberal party in Canada, and now a member of the British House of Commons,—quickly retorted: "Yes, my friend, you can do that, but you must not forget that any man can be a member, whilst any member cannot be a good reporter."

It was a timely warning. The member did not resign.

On Mr. BISHOP's motion the meeting adjourned to the fourth Thursday of August, 1894, at West Point.

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ELMIRA, N. Y., *November 2, 1893.*

Messrs. GEORGE R. BISHOP, SPENCER C. RODGERS, and GEORGE H. THORNTON:

GENTLEMEN — The sad news of the death of Mr. J. M. W. Yerrinton, late president of the New England Shorthand Reporters' Association, and an honorary member of the New York State Stenographers' Association, has just reached me. Mr. Yerrinton was a man of culture and great ability; a man who stood in the foremost rank of American stenographers. I deem it most appropriate that our Association should take such action as becomes one of the representative associations of stenographers of this country, in recognition of his personal worth, and long and honorable professional career. I, therefore, appoint you a committee to draft a suitable minute to be embodied in the annual report of the proceedings of our Association.

THEO. C. ROSE,  
*President N. Y. S. S. A.*

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The committee presented the following:

About as our proceedings are going to press, the announcement comes to us of the death, on October 30th, of one of the oldest, if not the very oldest in years of membership, of our honorary members. To the shorthand writers of this country the name of JAMES M. W. YERRINTON has been familiar as long as any of us have practised the art. Whatever the rank, among the professions, which may ultimately be accorded to



our calling when practised with the highest skill and the most scrupulous observance of all its highest ethical considerations, all will cheerfully and spontaneously admit that our deceased friend met these conditions, both by the ability he displayed, and by the manly and honorable way in which he conducted himself in all business or other relations. When some of the oldest of us were students or beginners, and before many of us had even thought of adopting stenography as our life-work, he was actively engaged, his name known as the one who preserved, for the perusal of the public, the masterly addresses of Phillips and his coadjutors — eloquent orators of three or four decades ago. Many sayings that helped to inspire that sentiment in the North that most directly and vitally antagonized the sentiment prevalent in the opposite section of the country, and which sayings have now gone into history, were caught by his deft pen — not only saved from oblivion, but brought to the notice of thousands who would otherwise have waited for years for any such message as those clarion calls conveyed.

Mr. Yerrinton was happily endowed by nature. He possessed a tall, erect, imposing figure, a noble face, an eye that was clear, alert and friendly. The biting east winds of his native New England had been encountered by his manly and robust form, and easily tossed aside, leaving no visible impression of their harshness. He had a voice almost as rich and musical as that of Charles Sumner, who possessed one of the noblest and richest that our ears have ever listened to. Mr. Yerrinton had, too, the happy power of selecting appropriate words in which to express his thoughts when he participated in discussion; while the thoughts themselves, as some of us have had occasion to observe, were wise and oftentimes eloquent. Had he trained himself for the platform, it is reasonable to believe that he would almost necessarily have become distinguished as a speaker. He was a man who, if pursuing a calling narrowly limited and circumscribed, must have transcended those limitations; if adopting one offering large opportunities, he must have grown to the full measure of them, and shown brilliantly in the broader sphere.

Mr. Yerrinton's interest in shorthand began at a time when it was very popular as a study — when the books of Andrews & Boyle, models in many ways of clear exposition, were issued in editions that followed each other in rapid succession. No

doubt the ferment, the activity of thought, especially in political matters of that period, had much to do in promoting this interest, as it had much to do also in fostering a love for oratory in many a young man, and encouraging the cultivation of it; in fact, the progress of shorthand went on *pari passu* with that which then afforded it the largest field for its exercise — the largest *then*, because this was before the era of the official court stenographer. In Congress, excellent work was done with it; the popular platform orators also presented a multifarious opportunity. No one was more active in the reporting of speeches at that time than Mr. Yerrinton; but his work naturally broadened and took in the field of legal stenography when that field became susceptible of cultivation. In this he worked actively and acceptably; he was for years one of the best-known and busiest of the court stenographers of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, remaining the official of the first circuit or district down to the time of his death. He lived to see a group of strong young associates come up around him, also active in the same field. Their appreciation of his quality was evidenced by their selection of him, when he and they founded the New England Shorthand Reporters' Association, as their first president, and by re-electing him to the office year after year until last summer, when, on account of his failing health, he declined a re-election. Even then, his associates, persevering in their determination to make manifest their high regard for him, made him their Honorary President, creating the office for him, as that of "General of the Army" had been created by our national legislature for our greatest generals. They felt, as all of us who knew him personally did, that he was, in the highest sense of the word, a gentleman — one of nature's noblemen. His interest in our New York State Association, often manifested and in different ways, gave us a strong feeling of comradeship for him; we very distinctly felt that he was one of ourselves. Though the frosts of sixty winters had touched his locks, yet his face bore the flush of health when we last saw him, and it is difficult to imagine that he has been taken from us. A spirit such as his might fitly take its flight on some beautiful day of the midmonth of the autumn—the most beautiful of the seasons both here and in his native New England; the season of the falling leaf, but with many a day of calm and sunshine—with but little, yet, of severity and storm.

As the committee appointed by the President of this Association to prepare this note for our proceedings, we tender to the widow and daughters of our deceased associate our most heartfelt sympathy for them in their irreparable loss.

GEO. R. BISHOP,  
SPENCER C. RODGERS,  
GEORGE H. THORNTON,  
*Committee.*

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## STENOGRAPHY IN INDIA.

BY DWIJENDRA N. SHINGHAW, STENOGRAPHER TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POST-OFFICES, SIMLA, INDIA; AUTHOR OF "PHONOGRAPHY IN BENGALI."

THE condition of India, stenographically, is very deplorable; however, she is gradually coming to an appreciation of its importance, and endeavoring to widen its influence amongst her sons. Some seven and thirty years ago the art of stenography was almost unknown to the natives of the country. Educated men, of course, were aware of the existence of this art, but, unfortunately, they took no trouble to make themselves conversant with it. Probably they considered it required superhuman agency to execute this startling performance; at least, this notion pervades the minds of many at present. I bear ample testimony to this fact. Several students of acknowledged merit expressed their desire to learn phonography, but no sooner did they see the weird-looking creatures of this art, than they gave up in despair all hope of utilizing it. Few had the confidence to master the principles of stenography and falsify the vain terror jutting over it. But it cannot be wholly ascribed to the foregoing reason. What really kept them in the rear, from learning the art, may fairly be attributed to three causes, firstly, they were not fully familiar with its utility; secondly, they cared very little for it, as they were satisfied with their longhand writing; thirdly, there was little or no chance of adequate remuneration.

Nothing that is conducive to the good of mankind can remain idle and mute. It must slowly chalk out its own path before the gazing populace, and promulgate its merit and importance. With the growth of time, the utility of the art

of phonography became more and more apparent, and to a certain extent even indispensable. Men were struck with the advantage which it bestowed on mankind,— how it alleviated the tedium of taking down long speeches and diatribes,— how it gave faithful reports of litigations and judgments thereon,— how it saved time and sweetened and facilitated the toil of those whose vocation was to “drive the quill.” When these things were carefully reflected upon, people could not help admiring the noble purpose which it was destined to fulfill. Then, men, some out of curiosity and some to economize time and labor, sedulously commenced to learn this much-esteemed art,— but, unluckily, it never came out of that sacred pale. It is, I believe, owing to their being disappointed. The government could not see its way to encourage these men, nor did the large business-houses care to foster the art by giving them suitable employment. This circumstance, though it did much to dampen the spirit of those who acquired it, and also of those who applied themselves assiduously to gain proficiency in it, could not altogether dishearten them and forever defeat the desire of learning it. Ideas of some, no doubt, become fossilized through despair and prejudice, but, thank heaven, every true thing always dissipates erroneous and imaginary notions. It rises in the midst of truculent aspersions, and stands bold and serene. However, witnessing the marvellous material results that flow from the acquisition of stenography, people began to fight with and conquer their ancient prejudices and to foster and spread the new, universally useful art. Luckily, at this time, and this was probably in the year 1860, the government stretched out a helping hand to aid it. It was first introduced into the High Court in Bengal, — the designation of the post being “Bench Clerk.” The services of these men were found to be indispensable. But they were not appointed exclusively as shorthand writers; they simply did stenographic work, having manifold other duties to perform. This body has, to a great extent, saved the time and labor of the honorable judges. Lawyers of this court are generally appointed to these posts. Unfortunately the recompense is not on a par with the importance of the position and its duties. These officers are only eight in number. Bombay, Madras, Allahabad, and the Punjab High Courts have no “Bench” officers, not to speak of presidency and provincial courts. Our wonder is, that when its usefulness has com-

mended itself to all who have once availed themselves of its services, it should still be looked upon with a complacent indifference. However, when its aid is so palpably beneficial, it will, I hope, in course of time, be introduced into other courts, higher as well as lower, indiscriminately.

Hitherto I have mentioned only its introduction into the High Court; I ought now to say something about its close companionship with the press, and when that was brought about. Now that the press is a well-recognized institution, it is found expedient to employ reporters. But for the constant aid of this class of men, it would have been quite impracticable for the press to keep pace with the nineteenth-century march of mind. Nearly twenty years ago it was introduced into the press. Prior to this period there were reporters, but they were not phonographers. They used rather abbreviated longhand. Naturally, this kind of writing was found inadequate to take down verbatim reports of the most rapidly spoken addresses, and preserve the priceless but otherwise fleeting and evanescent utterances of highly endowed orators, advocates and divines. Lectures on literature, science and art are the order of the day. They are more frequent and lengthy now than they were before. Scarcely a day passes without meetings, lectures or entertainments. Necessarily, thus efficient stenographic services are a *sine qua non*. But, unfortunately, the number of expert phonographers in India is limited. The cause is not difficult to discern. Scarcity of daily journals is the principal cause. Weeklies have no reporters. It is, I think, needless to enumerate the agreeable and disagreeable features of a reporter's calling in India. They are, I suppose, the same all over the world. Mr. Reed truly observed that "to the restless Bohemian type of mind it doubtless has a certain attraction; but most quiet and steady-going people would, I think, other things being equal, prefer day to night work, and certain to uncertain hours of employment." There is one thing more which, I think, ought not to be left untouched, and that is about scientific reporting. To our great shame and regret, be it observed, that there is no stenographer in India who can report a scientific subject; the main reason being that scientific lectures are few and far between. There is only one association in Calcutta, called the "Indian Association," for the cultivation of science; and there is another in Bombay named "Sassoon Mechanics' Institute," for the diffusion of scientific,

literary and mechanical knowledge. The existence of other similar associations I am not aware of. Unfortunately these associations, if I am not misinformed, do not care to utilize the inestimable services of shorthand writers. Consequently, phonographers do not think it worth their while to make themselves *au courant* with scientific or technical reporting. I think it to be a sad mistake on the part of these men. Albeit it is not incumbent upon them to be conversant with all sorts of scientific and technical subjects, yet they would act more wisely if they would simply pick up the technicalities of modern science and other difficult departments of knowledge. And in this way only, I think, can be achieved that wonderful and rounded finish of intellectual career.

I must now say a word or two about the introduction of shorthand into government offices. I have nothing in particular in the way of facts to relate. The number of phonographers employed in government offices is very limited, and they are not exclusively appointed in that capacity. They have other office work to attend to. We are grateful to the government for thus recognizing the claims of shorthand writers, and giving them every possible help by employing them in that capacity. The duty of a *municipal* office reporter is quite otherwise. He is exclusively appointed as a phonographer. His duty is simply to report the municipal meetings; and this kind of work undoubtedly is a dream of Elysium, too resplendent to be too familiarly indulged in by the larger number of shorthand writers. The salary, too, of this blessed post is far from being disproportionate. The Imperial and Legislative Council has reports; — each council has one reporter; and these men are exclusively employed as stenographers. The posts, too, are well paid.

I have yet to mention the introduction of shorthand into large business houses and seminaries, having done which, I shall have done with this short account of the progress phonography is making in India. It is with deep regret I note that the services of phonographers are very rarely appreciated by the big mercantile firms. There are very few shorthand clerks in business houses. Knowing full well the great and essential advantages accruing to mercantile establishments in England and America from the use of shorthand, why it is not thought proper to utilize the services of stenographers in mercantile firms in India is a thing which is difficult to imag-

ine. However, that such an expeditious method of writing will eventually be universally felt indispensable, there can be little doubt; but at the present moment it is debarred by the fact that the art of phonography is not sufficiently spread. Concerning shorthand in seminaries, I will say that, considering the incalculable advantages derivable from the acquisition of this winged art, I was induced to place it prominently before our students, and to seek to diffuse its principles. I communicated my object to our educational authorities; happily, they received it heartily, and did their best to help me in forming a shorthand class in the Presidency College, Calcutta. This was in the year 1891. Subsequently I succeeded in opening another class in the Doneton Institution for Young Ladies. These two classes made a wonderful progress for some time; in fact, some of them gained proficiency in the art. I was very much delighted to see their success. But my efforts did not end here; I had still another and far more difficult aim in view; and this was the introduction of shorthand into the University. For nearly eight months I worked hard to accomplish this object, but unfortunately all my efforts ended in failure. At the end of the year 1892 I was obliged to give up this pleasant office to accept of my present situation. This incident unhappily led to the abolition of the classes. However, I have the comfort of knowing that my labors in this direction were not absolutely fruitless. Efforts are being made at present in Bombay and Madras to popularize phonography; but, seeing the slow progress, it is impossible to foretell the outcome of this movement. I reflect, however, that every great end has a slow beginning. May the endeavors of those who are striving hard to diffuse this art prove successful. May the triumphal banner of stenography be planted securely, and successfully unfurled on the soil of India!

A word or two in connection with "Phonography in Bengali" will not, I think, be out of place. It will, I am sure, be of some interest to many of the readers of this paper. This book was published in the year 1892. The humble writer of this paper is the author of the book. It is long since the need was felt of a rapid method of recording learned and instructive sermons and speeches in Bengali, which could not hitherto be faithfully reproduced owing to the absence of any system of phonetic writing in Bengali. I have based my

signs and symbols on those devised by Mr. Isaac Pitman; and have fully explained the uses of the signs, and illustrated them by a series of lessons which have again been rendered clear by the "key." I am glad to note that the appearance of this book was hailed with joy. Students of both sexes willingly came forward to learn this art. I rendered my services gratuitously, and the result of this experiment appears to have been highly satisfactory. The government of Bengal has given me every possible encouragement in this direction by purchasing a good number of copies and distributing them in schools. And for this kind and material aid I shall ever remain grateful to the government.



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Johnston, Miss Minnie L.	Youngstown, Ohio.
Kellogg, George	744 Broadway, New York.
McGurrin, Frank E.	Salt Lake City, Utah.
Meyer, Oscar	Allentown, Pa.
Mimms, John H.	St. Albans, Vt.
Mitchell, Robert W.	Portland, Ore.
Patteson, Mrs. S. Louise	Cleveland, Ohio.
Perry, W. W.	Toronto, Ont.
Pinckney, Thomas	Toronto, Ont.
Pitman, Benn	Carlisle Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Reed, Thomas Allen	37 Cursitor Lane, London, Eng.
Ritchie, John	Chicago.
Rockwell, Julius Ensign	Washington, D. C.
Rockwell, Irving C.	Chicago.
Shinghaw, D. N.	Simla Hills, India.
Smith, Henry T.	Toronto, Ont.
Squibb, F. J.	Chicago.
Thornton, William H.	14 Fargo Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
Tilley, T. J.	117 W. Sixth St., Kansas City, Mo.
Van Dyne, Fred	Surgeon-Gen'l's Office, Washington, D. C.
Walch, Henry F.	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Wilson, S. G.	231 South Fifth St., Philadelphia, Pa.
Woodworth, W. A.	Denver, Col.
Wright, William B.	Room 52, 28 School St., Boston.
York, E. D.	Room 613, 44 Broadway, N. Y.
Zeibig, Prof. J. W.	Dresden, Saxony.

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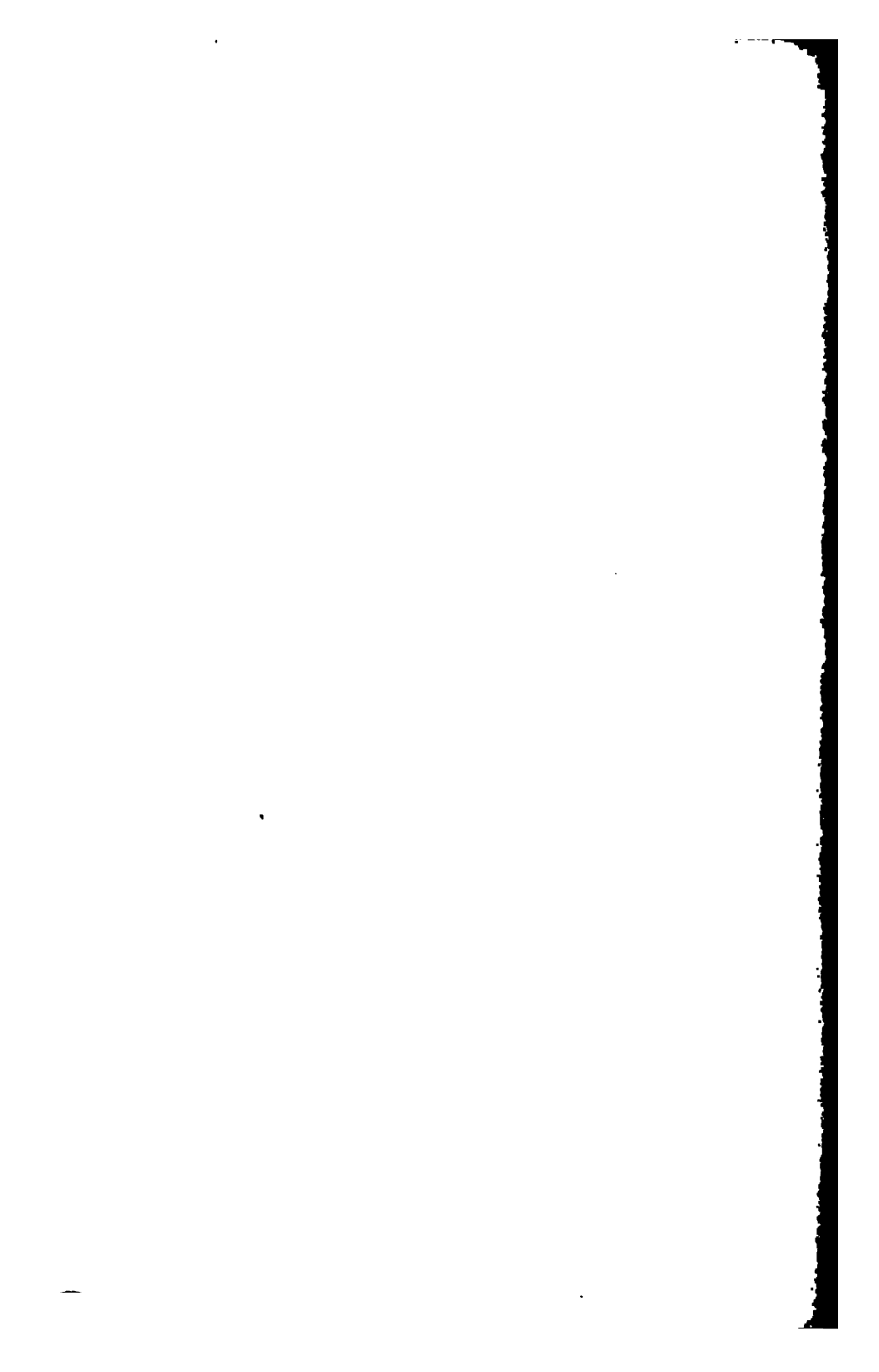
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**New York State Stenographers'  
Association**

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**Nineteenth Annual Meeting  
1894**





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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NEW YORK STATE

Stenographers' Association,

INCLUDING PAPERS READ,  
DISCUSSIONS, ETC.,

At the Nineteenth Annual Meeting,

HELD AT WEST POINT,

AUGUST 23 AND 24, 1894.

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.,  
THE JOHN P. SMITH PRINTING HOUSE.  
1894.

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REPORTED BY MISS ETTA A. EMENS.

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# Nineteenth Convention.

## PROCEEDINGS.

### FIRST DAY.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at the West Point Hotel, West Point, on the 23d and 24th days of August, 1894.

The meeting was called to order by President Rose.

There were present :

BISHOP, GEORGE R.,	. . .	New York.
EMENS, MISS ETTA A.,	. . .	Rochester.
EMENS, MISS CORA M.,	. . .	Rochester.
GOKEY, CHARLES F.,	. . .	Paterson, N. J.
HEFFLEY, NORMAN P.,	. . .	Brooklyn.
HILL, KENDRICK C.,	. . .	New York.
KING, CHARLES F.,	. . .	Glens Falls.
MOORE, MISS SARAH A.,	. . .	Elmira.
OSGOODBY, W. W.,	. . .	Rochester.
ROSE, THEO. C.,	. . .	Elmira.

There were also present as visitors, Mrs. K. C. Hill, of New York ; Mrs. Moore and Miss Theo. White, of Elmira, and Mr. A. J. Smith, of Manchester, N. H.

The President addressed the meeting as follows :

#### *Members of the Association :*

The duty again devolves upon me of calling you to order for our annual conference, and the consideration of such matters as may be brought before us. It would have been more gratifying to me, had some other and

more worthy member been chosen to occupy this chair ; some one whose experience and education had better fitted him for the position. For the second time it is my fortune to succeed one of the most accomplished parliamentarians in our ranks, and it is therefore with considerable diffidence that I attempt the discharge of this duty ; and I shall be sustained only by a reliance upon your generous forbearance and co-operation.

I congratulate you upon the happy auspices under which we meet. So far as I am aware, peace and harmony prevails throughout our jurisdiction. No question immediately or seriously affecting our profession in this state, has arisen since our last meeting. A slight ripple upon the otherwise smooth surface of affairs, was caused by the remarks of a distinguished lawyer before the meeting of the State Bar Association last winter, but they were undoubtedly made under a misapprehension of facts, and the ripple soon died away. I assume therefore, that the subjects to be introduced at this meeting, and upon which you will be asked to express your views, will be of a general nature, and such as pertain to the profession at large.

During the year none of our active members have died. Soon after our meeting last year we received the sad news of the death of our honorary member, Mr. J. M. W. Yerrinton, of Boston. Mr. Yerrinton had been for some years the president of the New England Shorthand Reporters' Association, and was known throughout the United States as one of the fathers of the profession. Our proceedings had not been printed at that time, and I therefore appointed a committee to draft a suitable minute in relation to his death, which was embodied in our annual proceedings. During the year two others of our honorary members have died, namely : Mr. Andrew J. Graham, and D. L. Scott Browne ; the former the widely known author of *Standard Phonography*, and formerly one of the most distinguished stenographers of this country ; the latter the publisher of *American Standard Phonography*, and a teacher of some note. I assume that proper resolutions will be presented at this meeting regarding the deaths of these gentlemen.

I am sorry that so few of our members are present to-day. The Constitutional Convention, the Elmira Reformatory investigation, and perhaps other unusual demands for stenographic labor during the present summer has made it impossible for many to be here. Some of our old-time active members have engaged in other occupa-

tions, have acquired wealth and habits of leisure, and cannot be induced to leave their quiet summer resorts. And so our numbers are small, but I trust that those present will be equal to the occasion, and that we may have a profitable meeting.

As we contrast the condition and prospects of our profession as we near the close of the second decade of our existence as an association, with the situation existing at the time of our organization, I think we have every reason to be proud of our endeavors. When we consider the work done and the influence our association has had upon the stenographic world, I am sure we have earned the commendation of the profession generally. We have had much to do with the enactment of the present laws of our state relating to our profession ; we have furnished many useful suggestions and examples to our brethren in other parts of the country ; and no less than three of our active members have given to the world new and improved systems of stenography, each one of which is the most concise, rapid, and legible ever devised! In the early days of our association we were perhaps more enthusiastic than now, and we may have hoped to accomplish more than we have, but as I have said, I think we have every reason to be content. Our proceedings have been widely read and commented upon, and when we shall retire from active practice and give way to our successors, it will be a source of gratification to often recur to those pages that contain so much of the history of the growth and development of our profession during our own times, and I am sure we shall often call to mind, with the greatest pleasure, these pleasant times of social intercourse and happy re-union.

I await your further pleasure.

Mr. Bishop moved that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with. Carried.

Mr. Bishop nominated for active membership, Mr. Charles M. Miller, the teacher of shorthand in the Packard Institute, New York.

Mr. Hill nominated for active membership : John B. Carey and W. P. Charles, of Brooklyn, W. G. Chaffee, of Oswego, and J. Gale Needham and J. Nugent, of New York.

Mr. Rose presented the name of John G. Bowman, of Philadelphia, for honorary membership.

Mr. Loeb, through the secretary, proposed the name of Charles H. Meigs, of New Haven, Conn., for honorary membership.

Mr. Bishop : You are aware, so far as the New England Association is concerned, that Mr. Yerrinton up to last year held the office of president of the New England Association. The members insisted on his continuance in office, but at the last year's election, the meeting in July, he declined a re-election, and Mr. Bacon—whom at that time I had the pleasure of meeting, and who is stenographer of one of the Boston courts—was made president. At the last meeting Mr. Bacon declined re-election, having expressed the opinion that it would be better to have short terms, and let the offices go around. At that time Mr. Gardiner, one of the foundation members of that society, was made president ; and I move that Mr. Gardiner be made an honorary member ; and I propose also for honorary membership Mr. Frank Burt, who is the successor of Mr. Yerrinton in the first circuit of Boston.

Mr. Hill proposed the name of Francis H. Hemperley, editor of "The Stenographer," of Philadelphia, Pa., for honorary membership.

Mr. Rose proposed the name of Henry W. Thorne, of Johnstown, for active membership, and that of A. J. Smith, of Manchester, N. H., for honorary membership.

The president appointed as a committee to act upon these nominations, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Hill and Mrs. White.

#### Report of Executive Committee :

Mr. Bishop—Mr. President, as chairman of the executive committee, I am very happy to say that the business of the association has been so admirably conducted by the regular list of officers that nothing has come down so low on the list as the executive committee, for the exercise of any authority or any active measures. I suppose the president, at the head, and the Secretary-Treasurer, have attended to it all, therefore I have nothing to report.

The President—The next order of business is the report of the Treasurer.

The report of Treasurer Emens was read by the Secretary as follows :

*To the New York State Stenographers' Association :*

RECEIPTS.

From ex-Secretary-Treasurer Loeb and dues paid at Convention, balance, . . . . .	\$ 22 60
From Sale of Proceedings, . . . . .	3 50
From dues 38 members, 1893, . . . . .	114 00
From " 1 member, 1892, . . . . .	3 00
From " 1 " 1891, . . . . .	3 00
From " 1 " 1890, . . . . .	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$148 10

DISBURSEMENTS.

To Weed-Parsons Printing Co., Albany, printing Proceedings 1893, 600 copies, . . . . .	\$167 50
To Librarian, Express charges from New York to Rochester, . . . . .	1 40
To Express charges, freight and cartage, . . . . .	3 56
To printing, Notices and Invitations, and Envelopes, . . . . .	12 97
To Postage, and discount on cheques on local banks, . . . . .	12 14
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	\$197 57
	<hr/>
Deficit, . . . . .	\$ 49 47

Respectfully submitted,

ETTA A. EMENS,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Osgoodby moved that the report of the treasurer be accepted. Carried.

Mr. Bishop moved that thanks be extended to the Secretary-Treasurer and a member with whom she had some collusion in regard to advancing payment of bill for printing proceedings. Carried.

Mr. Bishop—Mr. President, the committee on nominations for membership have to report, that we are sufficiently satisfied as to each and all of them, and make our report in favor of each and all of the nominees.

Mr. King moved that the rule be suspended and that the secretary be instructed to cast one vote. Carried.

The Secretary cast one vote in favor of their election.

The President read letters from N. Stuart Dunlop, Toronto ; J. E. Rockwell, Atlanta, Georgia ; A. P. Little, Rochester ; Andrew Devine, Francis H. Hemperley, Henry L. Beach, Mr. Desjardins, Mr. Shalvey, Wyckoff, Seamans and Benedict, J. B. Strachan, Edwin R. Gardiner and Mr. Shalvey.

Mr. Osgoodby read a letter from Prof. Zeibig, Dresden, Saxony.

President Rose read telegram from Leopold Woodle, of New York, regretting his inability to be present.

The Secretary read letters from Jerome B. Howard, Wm. Loeb, Jr., S. C. Rogers, T. B. Benness, Editor of *The Canadian Shorthand Review*, Toronto, John G. Bowman, Philadelphia, and Miss Ballantyne. of Rochester.

Mr. Bishop moved that the Executive Committee be empowered to receive and include in the proceedings the paper referred to by Miss Ballantyne, if the manuscript shall be received in time.

The President—The next order of business should be the reading of the the Librarian's report.

Mr. Bishop—Inasmuch as one stenographic magazine said the library amounted to nothing, I would move that the report be read in full. Carried.

The Librarian being unable to attend the meeting, the following report was read by the secretary :

Presto—The librarian is called upon to record that the Library of the New York State Stenographers' Association, notwithstanding the stringency of the money market, chronicled its first journey during the past winter, when it bade adieu to its snug, cozy quarters at No. 24 Clinton Place, New York, where it had so long been peacefully domiciled. Although being young and inexperienced in travelling, the journey was not fraught with any incident worthy of note, and thanks to its late mistress, it arrived safely at its new home, No. 129 Powers Building, Rochester, in a very comfortable and classified condition, where its volumes are now reposing on the broad shelves of a new and handsome quartered oak bookcase, with ponderous glass doors. Being so con-



spicuously located, said volumes are at all times on the alert to call the attention of any member of the "pot-hook" profession (that comes within range of their vision) to tarry awhile, be introduced and make the acquaintance of their historical contents.

Accessions to the library, for the year, have been as follows : A complete file of the National Stenographer—a complete file of The Stenographer—also some odd numbers of Frank Harrison's Magazine.—From Mr. Thomas Bengough, Toronto, Canada, Proceedings of the First Annual General Meeting of the Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association of Ontario, including The Act of Incorporation, By-laws, etc.—From Edward A. Cope, London, England, The Acquisition of Speed in Phonography, also A Handbook for Shorthand Teachers, A Guide to the Art of Teaching Pitman's Phonography, Including a brief History of Shorthand.—From Prof. J. W. Zeibig, Dresden, Germany, Die Rechtspflege die Stenographie.—From, well, it will have to be a case of proving handwriting, as post mark was blotted and no signature attached—Copy of printed invitation to the Eighth Annual Convention of the New York State Stenographers' Association, held at Watkins, August 7, 1883, also Menu of the Banquet of the New York State Stenographers' Association at the Sixth Annual Convention, August 24, 1881.—From Miss Etta A. Emens, Rochester, Magazin fur Stenographie.—From Mrs. Eliza B. Burnz, New York, Official Report of the Proceedings of the World's Congress of Stenographers, held at Chicago 1893, and from Miss M. Jeanette Ballantyne, Rochester, History of the Phonetic Shorthand Writers' Association ; Its Twenty-one Years' Career ; author, Edward A. Cope, London, England.

The library has been visited by Mr. T. C. Rose, Elmira ; Mr. W. W. Osgoodby, Rochester, and Miss Etta A. Emens, Rochester. No books have been loaned during the year ending August 20th, 1894.

Respectfully submitted,

M. JEANETTE BALLANTYNE,  
Librarian.

Dated Rochester, N. Y., August 20, 1894.

Mr. Bishop moved that the report of the Librarian be accepted and placed on file.

The President—If there are no objections it will be placed on file.

Mr. Osgoodby—At some appropriate time—I do not know under what order it would come—I should like to suggest that some action be taken with respect to making arrangements with other state associations for an interchange of our printed proceedings. Some of the proceedings of other associations, which I have seen, contain very valuable matter, which I am sure would please all our members.

The President—That will come under the head of Miscellaneous Business. The next order of business is, reading of papers. I have a paper from Mr. John G. Bowman, of Philadelphia, which I will ask Mr. King to read.

**“What has Half a Century done for Shorthand?”**

BY JOHN G. BOWMAN.

At the World's Congress of Stenographers, held at Chicago in July, 1893, Mr. David Wolfe Brown read a paper entitled “What has Half a Century done for Shorthand?” A paper bearing such a title—especially a paper prepared by so eminent a stenographer as Mr. Brown—might reasonably be presumed not only to give, in some detail, an account of the efforts that various authors have made, during the last half-century, to produce a system of shorthand superior to all others, but also to present such inferences and conclusions, from the facts stated, as would bear the test of logical criticism. It is to be regretted, however, that Mr. Brown's paper is not altogether of this character. It not only fails to set forth any facts showing what half a century *has* done, but it also fails to give any facts that would enable any one, excepting Mr. Brown, to know what half a century *has not* done, for shorthand.

Of course, Mr. Brown has furnished an abundance of facts, for the purpose of proving the correctness of certain theories of his own; but it is not improbable that a careful perusal of the paper will satisfy the unbiased mind not only that the facts adduced do not support the theories, but that the theories themselves are based upon mere conjecture.

The principal—if not the only—theory that Mr. Brown has proven to his own satisfaction to be correct, is, that half a century has done nothing for shorthand beyond putting the stamp of superiority upon the particular sys-

tem that he claims to be a writer of. That system is the ninth edition of Isaac Pitman's *English* phonography, metamorphosed by Mr. Brown into an *American* system, which he seems to think is especially adapted to American needs ; and the only improvement in the science within the past fifty years would seem to be that made by Mr. Brown himself. His great modesty, no doubt, prevented his disclosing to the World's Congress the fact that he would soon publish "Easy Lessons in Congressional Shorthand—a thoroughly-simplified exposition of *American* Phonography as tested and developed during many years of official reporting in Congress." That these lessons are soon to appear will be a source of gratification to all American phonographers, particularly to those who write the Isaac Pitman system, which, as everyone knows, is especially adapted to the English language, and for that reason is not so well adapted for Congressional reporting as Mr. Brown's American phonography seems to be. The prospectus of "Easy Lessons," particularly that part of it which asks, "Why learn or teach *English* Shorthand in preference to an American system especially adapted to American needs?"—taken in connection with that part (which is probably meant for Mr. Isaac Pitman and the rest of our English brethren) which intimates that this American system is "worthy to be adopted the world over"—would lead one to suspect that Mr. Brown's opinion with regard to the value of the eighth and ninth editions has undergone a slight change. Upon the whole, however, Mr. Brown's paper may be considered a preface to his Easy Lessons in Congressional Shorthand ; but, in order that his reasons for preferring his own system may appear more clearly than he has presented them, a review of his paper seems to be necessary.

Mr. Brown asserts, at the outset, that the original Pitman phonography became, in a few years after its promulgation, more scientific, more easy to learn, more legible and more rapid than any of its stenographic predecessors, and hence, *eminently* adapted for acquisition by large classes of people who would never have attempted, and who never could have mastered, any of the older systems ; that a few years after its promulgation, Stephen Pearl Andrews, with the aid of Augustus F. Boyle and Oliver Dyer, organized a most remarkable educational agitation in America, as the result of which "thousands and thousands of teachers and others, all over the country, essayed the new study ;" that Mr. Dyer

visited Philadelphia in 1848 and formed classes of boy phonographers in the Philadelphia High School; that, according to evidence which Mr. Brown cannot doubt, "boys averaging fourteen or fifteen years of age became, after a few months of instruction, *skillful writers* of phonography, and this, too, without any interruption of their ordinary studies," and that "in the years immediately following, many of those youths did most admirable reporting work, notably in the courts of Philadelphia and in the two Houses of Congress." He then quotes Mr. Rockwell, to the effect that in 1851 there were *said to be* six thousand persons who had been taught phonography in Philadelphia. He then asserts that in that year the first official reporting in America was done by two young phonographers, one of whom was (he could just as easily have said, had been) "a High School boy"; and he refers with special pride to the many important trials in the courts of Philadelphia that were phonographically reported, mostly by "High School boys." The fact that these boys had years before severed their connection with the Philadelphia High School was too unimportant, of course, for Mr. Brown to mention.

He then mentions the Phonetic Council of 1851-2, which, he says, resulted in the incorporation of certain features into the system, which, thus changed, afterwards became known as the ninth edition, of which he modestly says he is himself a writer. He then ventures the opinion that a system, thus deliberated upon, thus *settled*, thus accredited, might well be presumed to be of most substantial value, and that its eminent merits have been conceded by such high authorities as Mr. Munson and Mr. Graham, and that Thomas Allen Reed thought (in 1864) that it should have been adopted as a standard.

The chief point which he wished to make clear by the presentation of these facts, was that the ninth edition became almost universally recognized as the most satisfactory system, *for all purposes*, and that therefore it should have been adopted as the standard system, *for all purposes*. He then attempts to give some valid reasons why the system should have been adopted as a standard. He speaks of the wonderful simplicity and scientific beauty of the Pitman system in the days of Andrews and Boyle—the eighth edition, I presume he means—as a "philosophic, yet *thoroughly practical method of writing*, free from arbitrary expedients"; and, after quoting testimonials from "men of scholarly and scientific tastes," nearly all of whom had had but little practical acquaint-

ance with the system, and had taken up the art from mere love for its study, with no wish to practice it otherwise than as amateurs, in the true sense of that term, he asks: "Can you procure *from similar sources* similar encomiums upon the more modern versions of the art?" He then reveals the astounding fact that, so far as he knows, the only students of shorthand at the present time are those who aim to be either amanuenses or reporters, and that he has not seen a genuine phonographic amateur for many years! I wonder if he knows of any students of divinity, of law, or of medicine, who aim to be merely amateur clergymen, lawyers or physicians! He then delivers himself of a gigantic inference—"Surely," he says, "the art must have lost some most essential merits which it then possessed;" and he adds, "Phonographic principles have been ruthlessly sacrificed whenever a supposed stenographic advantage was to be gained." There are some persons who might consider this last assertion a "ruthless" exaggeration, had it come from any individual other than Mr. Brown.

He then comes to the matter of ease of acquisition—"a point insisted upon by prominent educators in the Andrews and Boyle days, and for a few years thereafter;" and here he gives his Bucephalus a very loose rein. He asserts that Mr. Andrews, in his day, testified that phonography was "extremely simple and easy of acquisition;" that John Bright (a very eminent shorthand authority (?), of course), declared that "Phonography is so exceedingly simple as to be easily learned by any one of ordinary capacity."\* Then he quotes Dr. Thomas Hill (another shorthand authority !): "Every child in our common schools [not High Schools, mind you!] should be taught to read and write this shorthand [which somebody had told him about, evidently] at the age when he is usually taught to write the common hand." This certainly ought to have been conclusive as to the extreme simplicity and practicability of the system; but Mr. Brown thought he had better put the matter beyond the possibility of doubt, by quoting still another distinguished (?) stenographer—Robert Patterson—who, "speaking from *actual observation*, testified, in 1854, 'So simple are the principles of the art, that children, in the ordinary course

\* What Mr. Bright really said, was after a lecture by Joseph Pitman, in September, 1843, and was as follows: "I think no person can have been at this lecture, or attended the one that was given this day week, without being convinced that \* \* \* this science \* \* \* is so exceedingly simple as to be easily learned by every one of ordinary capacity;" but in 1883 or 1884, Mr. Bright wrote to Rev. James William, author of *Alethography*, "I do not know shorthand."—(See *Shorthand Journal*, London, January, 1888.—Ed.)

of school education, can become *perfect masters* of it with far less difficulty and more pleasure than in the acquirement of any other branch of elementary knowledge." Then he quotes from the preface of Andrews and Boyle's Phonographic Reader (1848): "This work is intended for persons *from nine to ten years of age* and upwards [italicising the words as I have done, but not the words "and upwards"], who are able to read fluently the old printed script characters. \* \* \* \* Three months spent by scholars over ten years of age in studying the Class Book and Reader, enables them to read phonography as readily as common print, and to write with great facility." "There were giants in those days!", says Mr. Brown, in various parts of his paper. If the witnesses he calls to prove the ease with which the 8th edition system could be acquired are to be judged by the magnitude of their averments, they certainly must have been men of prodigious proportions !

Our author then tries very hard to give us something definite as to the time required by the old phonography to acquire reporting speed. He quotes Isaac Pitman : "The average time necessary to qualify a person, who can write longhand in a flowing style, to *follow a speaker* by means of the system of shorthand here presented [in the Reporter of 1846] including the time spent in learning the second style of phonography, may be stated at \* \* three months, by practicing three hours a day ;" and to corroborate this, Benn Pitman is quoted : "We can *recall* instances where our pupils have reported sermons verbatim within three months after their first lesson, with about two hours' practice a day" [Teacher of '56]. But, seeing that Sir Benn might be supposed to have had an axe to grind, Mr. Brown adds, "Perhaps we can get safer guidance from Oliver Dyer. \* \* \* 'The 9th, 10th, and 13th lessons should be written over at least a hundred times each. Scholars who do this will find themselves *very rapid writers*, able to report a *slow* speaker three months after having commenced the study of phonography'." Then he attempts to give Mr. Dyer's verification of Mr. Dyer's assertion, just quoted ; but the verification dwindles to a mere assumption of Mr. Brown's, based entirely upon something which Mr. Dennis F. Murphy has said, but which does not verify Mr. Dyer's statement at all. What Mr. Murphy said, was this : "It is true that within three months after Oliver Dyer commenced to teach phonography in the Philadelphia High School in 1848, a *number* of his pupils

were able to report *a slow speaker*. His lessons began in March, and in the following May, according to my recollection, R. M. Patterson and myself took notes with Mr. Dyer of the addresses at an anniversary of the American Sunday School Union ; and Patterson and I each wrote out some of the addresses, *our reports being revised by Mr. Dyer.*" How kind this was in Mr. Dyer, to allow them to take notes with him,—for the practice it would give them, not for the advertising it would give him—of course not—and to assume all the responsibility of the reporting himself ! But think of what follows : "In the following month of June," continued Mr. Murphy, "the National Whig Convention, that nominated Gen. Taylor for the presidency, met in Philadelphia, and Mr. Dyer was engaged to report it for the *North American*. \* \* Mr. Dyer selected twelve of his High Schools pupils to assist him. They were divided into relays of three each, [but *why* three each ?] each relay taking notes for fifteen minutes and then retiring to write out. The result was, that by evening a quantity of matter was ready for Mr. Dyer (who took notes of the entire proceedings [of course !]) to revise. I was one one of the twelve, and I am sure Patterson, McElhone, and Dalrymple were of the number ; but I cannot now recall the other names." "There were giants in those days !" interjects Mr. Brown, after quoting this language of Mr. Murphy. "Even the boys were giants, in their own way—unless we venture to surmise"—and it was quite a venture, after what he had said as to the wonderful progress these gentlemen had made, having been mainly due to the great simplicity of the system—"unless we venture to surmise that the marvellous success of those boy students was owing, first, to a teacher who could himself do what he undertook to teach others to do, and, second, to a simple system of shorthand," etc. But why did Mr. Brown think it a venture to thus surmise ? Mr. Murphy had not hesitated to say, "I attribute this rate of progress mainly to the thoroughness of Mr. Dyer's teaching, and also to the fact that at that time a considerable portion of the High School instruction was by lectures on which the pupils had to stand examination ; and I know personally that I found the ability to take notes of lectures a great advantage to my standing at school. \* \* \* I continued practicing in this way after Mr. Dyer's instruction ceased, and also regularly endeavored to take full notes of sermons." Mr. Murphy has not said a word about the wonderful simplicity of the system and its easy ac-

quirement within three months! His letter, which is very carefully worded, shows, on close examination, that it is a refutation, rather than a verification, of Mr. Dyer's statement that scholars—meaning *all* scholars, of course, for Mr. Dyer used the term universally—that scholars writing the 9th, 10th and 13th lessons a hundred times would find themselves able to report a slow speaker three months after having commenced the study of phonography. All that Mr. Murphy said, or intended to say, was, that a *number* of Mr. Dyer's pupils—not all scholars—were able to report a slow speaker; and that he and eleven others, who were *selected* by Mr. Dyer, *took notes* of the addresses, and that the notes were revised by Mr. Dyer, who reported the entire proceedings.

But what was Mr. Brown himself doing while these extraordinary performances were being enacted by Mr. Murphy and a few others? How did *he* stand in this class of boy giants, and what was *his* rate of progress after he ceased to be one of them? It is to be noted that he has carefully refrained from giving any positive or definite opinion of his own with regard to the ease with which the eighth edition system could be mastered; and he has been especially careful to avoid any reference to his own experience with that system. Perhaps this omission is due to Mr. Brown's great modesty; but fortunately, we have other sources from which to obtain information upon this point. In the *Phonographic Magazine* for January 1, 1893, we find an interesting, and at this time a very valuable, sketch of Mr. Brown, written by Fred Irland. At the time this sketch was written, Mr. Irland had been associated with Mr. Brown in the House of Representatives about three years. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that the facts Mr. Irland gives were ascertained from Mr. Brown himself, especially as they have hitherto remained uncontradicted. From this sketch it appears that Mr. Brown also took a twelve-lesson course of instruction from Mr. Dyer at the same time that Mr. Murphy and Mr. McElhone did; though it does not appear that he was one of the "reporting class" of which they afterwards became members. Mr. Irland tells us that, at the age of seventeen—having for a couple of years discontinued his study and practice—Mr. Brown again took up Andrews and Boyle's Class Book and Reader, which "soon gave place to Isaac Pitman's Manual and Reporters' Companion (ninth edition), followed by the first edition of Benn Pitman's Reporters' Companion"—a most wonderful thing, if the system he



had learned was so simple and so thoroughly practical and effective ! "Several years later," continues Mr. Irland, "*when Mr. Brown had already acquired reporting skill*, the publication of Graham's Handbook induced him to adopt some of the expedients taught therein." How blind he must have been to the superiority of the eighth and ninth editions of the Pitman system, even though, while using them, he had attained reporting skill ! It should be borne in mind that Mr. Brown had previously practiced the eighth and ninth editions sufficiently to test their practicability for reporting ; for Mr. Irland says : "Mr. Brown, when he had made some progress as a shorthand student, but when the goal was yet far away, \* \* \* resigned his \* \* \* position. in order to give his days and nights to study and practice. Entering upon an extensive course of dictation drill, he hired his boyish acquaintances (the oratorical patience of the members of his family being long since exhausted) to read to him such standard works as the essays of Johnson, Addison, and Macaulay, Milton's Paradise Lost, Pope's Essay on Man, Blackstone's Commentaries, Thomas Brown's Philosophy of the Human Mind, Blair's Rhetoric, the Speeches of Burke and Clay and Webster, etc." It is not to be supposed, however, that so limited (?) an amount of practice as this could have brought him much nearer to the goal than he was when he began it, for Mr. Irland says : "When, after hard study and work at home, he tried his hand at sermons, lectures and witnessses, *for the practice*, it was a pleasure if he could report all that a slow speaker said. And when he found a too rapid utterance, it was to him only an indication that more study and practice were needed." How extremely simple and easy of acquirement this fascinating and thoroughly practical system must have been ! "It was Brown's ambition," continues Mr. Irland, "to become a parliamentary reporter. He, therefore, after such discipline as we have described, applied for and obtained a position as assistant in the reporting corps of the United States senate. \* \* \* Mr. Murphy \* \* \* said afterward that Mr. Brown's case was about the only one he ever knew in which a student thoroughly mastered the mechanical part of reporting before he began actual work." Now, it was after all this enormous amount of practice, after his thorough mastery of the mechanical part of reporting, that Mr. Brown found it expedient to take up Benn Pitman's Reporters' Manual and Vocabulary, which was not published till 1855. He was em-

ployed in actual work in the Senate during the years 1854-5-6, according to Mr. Irland, and had had the advantage of all that practice, in addition to the dictation practice on the numerous works mentioned by Mr. Irland, and after he had left the Senate he came to Philadelphia and did reporting work in the courts. Then, two years after he left the Senate, Graham's Handbook appeared, and Mr. Brown was still dissatisfied with his system, for he was induced—not without very great reason, one would suppose—to adopt some of Graham's expedients! “There were giants in those days!!” A sample of his reporting notes appears in the *Phonographic Magazine*, with Mr. Irland's sketch. Mr. Irland further says: “Mr. Brown's reporting style, formed by the exercise of his own practical, independent judgment [and the expenditure of seven or eight years' time!] rather than by a slavish adherence to any single author, exhibits a happy mean between needless fullness of outline on the one hand and excessive brevity on the other.” What Mr. Irland means by “a happy mean” may be inferred from the fact that Mr. Irland is a writer of Graham's advanced reporting style, and has many times expressed the opinion that the old phonography was not brief enough for very rapid work.

Whether Mr. Brown is a writer of the 9th edition style, as he claims to be, or whether he writes a combined Pitman and Graham style, is of no great consequence; but one thing is certain—he did not succeed in mastering the 8th edition, or the 9th edition, or any other style, as easily as he seems to wish it to be believed (but which he is extremely careful not to assert positively) that Mr. Murphy and Mr. McElhone, and the rest of the twelve who were selected by Mr. Dyer to assist him in reporting the National Whig Convention, mastered the 8th edition system. It must be admitted, however, by every one who knows anything about Mr. Murphy's stenographic career, that that gentleman did make remarkable progress in acquiring the art of writing shorthand; and I have no doubt that Mr. McElhone's progress was almost equally remarkable; and the fact that both of them have done excellent work with the 8th edition style, is beyond question. But how many writers who have used that style have done the same quality of work, or even shown themselves capable of doing it? Mr. Murphy's extraordinary hand facility is well known, and Mr. McElhone's was perhaps almost as great. It is possible that there are others who write the same style as

rapidly as they have done, but I know of none. The individual who can write that style with entire satisfaction in every-day reporting, must be naturally endowed with an extraordinary amount of nerve force and muscular energy. Suppose an average experienced penman is able to write longhand at the rate of only thirty words per minute, and that Mr. Murphy is able to write at the rate of fifty. (I think the highest rate ever written, so far as is known, is fifty-seven words.) Now, if the average penman should write the same style of shorthand that Mr. Murphy writes, and if he should write at the highest rate of movement of which he is capable, after practicing sufficiently to reach his highest rate of speed, he would write shorthand just three-fifths as rapidly as Mr. Murphy would. Suppose Mr. Murphy's shorthand speed to be 250 words a minute; in that case the shorthand speed of the other writer would be only 150 words a minute. If Mr. Murphy's shorthand speed were only 225 words a minute, the rate of the other writer would be only 135. If the longhand rate of the average penman were forty words a minute, then his shorthand speed would be 200 to Mr. Murphy's 250, or 180 to Mr. Murphy's 225. Forty words per minute, however, is far above the reach of the average experienced longhand writer. It may be, too, that Mr. Murphy's longhand rate is above fifty words; but his shorthand rate can hardly be above 250. If the longhand rate should be 55, and the average penman's 30, or 35, or 40, then their shorthand rates would be 250 and 136.3; or 250 and 159; or 250 and 181.8, respectively. It would seem, therefore, that the explanation of the remarkable success of Mr. Murphy and Mr. McElhone, in the use of the 8th edition phonography is, that their extraordinary rapidity of hand-movement enabled them to accomplish, with that system, what Mr. Brown did not and could not accomplish with it, and what but very few others who have used it have been able to accomplish with it. If Mr. Brown takes the position, which he appears to have taken, that the rapid progress of Mr. Murphy and Mr. McElhone is any criterion of the ease with which that system could be mastered, then what would he infer from his own very slow progress with the same system? On the other hand, if he means to claim that these two gentlemen were "giants," because they mastered the system so easily, then why should it not follow that none but giants could master it as easily as they did? It should be noted that Mr. Brown has not given the name of a single individual who mastered the

system thus easily, besides Mr. Murphy, Mr. McElhone, Mr. Dalrymple and Rev. Robert M. Patterson. But even if he had given the names of fifty others, no fair inference could be drawn as to the system's being thus easily acquirable by individuals generally ; for that would be the inference of a general rule from a very limited number of special cases, and therefore illogical.

It would not be difficult to prove, if proof were necessary, that the old phonography required too high a standard of physical qualification for it ever to become generally practicable for all the requirements of reporting. I am intimately acquainted with a gentleman who studied shorthand under the direction of Prof. Booth, whose text book Mr. Brown thinks "is one of the best, perhaps, that has ever been prepared." This gentleman studied entirely from Andrews and Boyle's books, Prof. Booth's book not having then appeared. I had a talk with him in March last, and, on mentioning the wonderful progress it was claimed had been made by a large number of students of the old system in the early '50's, he expressed great surprise. He told me that, although Prof. Booth could write "pretty fast," yet he had heard only Mr. Murphy and one or two others, whose names he could not remember, mentioned, at that time, as being reporters, Mr. Murphy alone being then spoken of as a *verbatim* reporter. He told me that some time before he took up the study, there had been considerable enthusiasm manifested in Philadelphia over the study of shorthand, and that a large number of persons undertook to master it, but that the enthusiasm soon subsided, and, after a few years, the impression became general that the Pitman system could not be mastered, for reporting purposes, except by individuals having very rare qualifications and adaptability for its acquirement ; and that even those who were thus fitted for it were able to master it only after long and arduous practice. This gentleman himself studied the system about six months, and practiced faithfully during all that time ; but, notwithstanding the fact that he was an excellent penman and a very intelligent man—and a very conscientious and enterprising business man, as well—he never got beyond the point of using the system for memoranda, or of writing it at about the same speed at which he could write long-hand.

I have talked also with one of the oldest reporters in Philadelphia upon this subject. He also was a High School boy, but not until after Murphy and McElhone

had become congressional reporters, and after Mr. Dyer's instruction at the High School had ceased. This gentleman first studied from Benn Pitman's books and afterwards from Graham's. His reporting experience began in Philadelphia in 1859 or 1860 ; at which time Murphy and McElhone were doing all the reporting that was being done in Philadelphia, and he assisted them. They and he did all the reporting in the Philadelphia courts from that time down to the close of the war ; and after that, until about 1873, he and Murphy did most of it alone. He told me he had never heard of Mr. Dalrymple, and did not remember having heard that either of the Robert Pattersons, whom Mr. Brown has mentioned, was a shorthand writer. He was greatly surprised, too, to learn that Mr. Brown had said that many individuals in Philadelphia had found the eighth edition phonography easy to acquire. This gentleman, from 1873 to 1876, was the leading stenographer in Philadelphia. He has the most exalted opinion of Mr. Murphy's ability as a shorthand writer, and attributes his speed to his marvelous rapidity of movement.

I have talked also with another gentleman, a professional writer of the 8th edition style at the present time. He remembered that the system was taught at the Philadelphia High School by a gentleman named Kirkpatrick ; but this was after Murphy and McElhone had become congressional reporters. He said he had never heard of any one who acquired even ordinary reporting speed in three months, or even six months ; that there were very few students that he had ever heard of, who could report in less than a year's time ; and that it was generally considered, forty years ago, that the student who acquired reporting ability in less than a year, possessed extraordinary talent. He said the vast majority of students gave up shorthand in disgust, after a few months application, because they found the system very difficult to master sufficiently to follow even a very slow speaker.

Rev. Robert M. Patterson, D. D., who is referred to by Mr. Brown, is the editor of the *Presbyterian Journal*, published at Philadelphia. In an editorial written by him and published in the *Journal* of October 12, 1893, Dr. Patterson quotes from Mr. Murphy's letter, which Mr. Brown attached to his paper, the paragraph relating to Mr. Dyer's class, and says : " My recollection agrees with Mr. Murphy's in regard to the ease with which we learned and *began to practice* our shorthand ; " but he adds : " Few who study it can become rapid writers

and expert reporters, but all can be so proficient in it as to find it of incalculable use in all the professions."

Fortunately, we are able to find more light upon the subject of the wonderful simplicity and ease of acquirement of the old phonography, than Mr. Brown has given us—and this light shines directly upon the achievements made by some of the very persons whose remarkable histories he has cited.

The *Phonographic Magazine* for Feb. 15, 1894, contains a sketch of Oliver Dyer, in which it is stated that "Mr. Dyer practiced assiduously to acquire sufficient facility in writing phonography to be able to make verbatim reports of public speeches. *It took him over a year to acquire the ability to report a speech or sermon delivered at ordinary speed.*" And Mr. Dyer himself stated, in a speech at an annual dinner of the New York Stenographers' Association, "I have heard people talk of some stenographers writing 300 words a minute. I should like to see such a man. *I never could get over 140.*" (See Munson's *Phonographic News*, of June, 1878.)

In the same magazine, in January, 1891, it is stated, with reference to Thomas Hill, who is referred to by Mr. Brown as an authority: "Dr. Hill very early became a writer of phonography, but never went beyond the corresponding style, nor a speed of about ninety words a minute, except on one occasion," when he succeeded in taking a slow speaker verbatim. A sample of the "high authorities" upon the question of the simplicity and ease of acquirement of the old phonography for reporting purposes!

In the same magazine, in September, 1891, it is stated that Prof. Booth thought the art should be acquired as one of the branches of elementary education, but "in his judgment an obstacle to that end consisted in the unsatisfactory presentation of the art in the instruction books then available." Surely, there must have been some lack of simplicity, at least, in the old style, if it could not be learned from the text-books!

In the same magazine, in January, 1893, the statement of Stephen Pearl Andrews is published, relating to the introduction of phonography in America by Andrews and Boyle, in which he says: "Thousands upon thousands of teachers and others, all over the country, essayed the new study, *and did something at it; but they began, after a while, to find out that it was hard work.*" In quoting from this statement, the ingenuous Mr. Brown omits the portion of this sentence which I have italicized!

In the same magazine, in February, 1891, it is stated that when Mr. Dyer went to Philadelphia "the enthusiasm over the then novelty was so great that some three hundred and fifty boys were enrolled in the phonographic class, but by the time the course [of twelve lessons only!] was completed, they had dwindled to about fifty;" and, upon the completion of the course, Mr. Dyer selected but twenty of the class as showing aptitude for shorthand, to receive further instruction in reporting.

William Henry Burr entered a class taught in Syracuse, about 1845, by Oliver Dyer. It was not until a year afterward that Burr made his first *attempt* at verbatim reporting for the local press. (See *Phonographic Magazine*, February 1, 1894.)

Theodore Tilton states, in the *Phonographic Magazine* of March 1, 1894, that he learned phonography from Andrews and Boyle and Dyer, and his practice was from his father reading to him from the Bible. He says of his practice: "I wrote it from his lips hour by hour—and every day for years!"

In January, 1849, phonography was introduced into the New York Free Academy, with about 360 students. The number was rapidly sifted out, however, and but seventeen finished the course. Andrews and Boyle were the teachers, and the Class Book and Reader used. (See *Browne's Monthly*, March, 1877.)

Charles B. Collar began the study with Andrews and Boyle in the winter of 1849 and 1850. He spent the whole of the ensuing summer and fall in practice from reading, and he spent the succeeding winter in Boston in practice upon sermons, lectures, etc., endeavoring to acquire reporting speed. (See *Browne's Monthly*, November, 1877.)

Henry M. Parkhurst writes, in *Browne's Monthly*, August, 1877, that in August, 1844, he received the phonographic alphabet and some slight instruction from his brother, and in the next spring first saw a phonographic manual. He had practiced then, so that he could write about sixty words a minute. He further says: "In two years I learned to write about 120 words a minute; in four years, 160 words, and soon after, 200 words."

Edward F. Underhill began the study in 1847, under T. C. Leland, in Andrews and Boyle's books, afterwards taking Isaac Pitman's text-books. In 1849 he was employed as a reporter on the St. Louis *Republican*, and at that time, two years after beginning the study, he was

not able to write 100 words a minute. (See biographical sketch in *Browne's Monthly*, September, 1877.)

T. C. Leland began the study under Boyle in 1845, with Pitman's Manual. He took six lessons at Rochester, then studied by himself, and six weeks after undertook to teach it! He taught classes in various places until 1847. He then got Isaac Pitman's Reporters' Companion. By his journal it appears that on March 22, 1847, he could write but fifty words a minute. He then settled down to steady practice for speed from reading, practiced five or six hours a day, for three months, when he could write 120 words a minute. (See *Browne's Monthly*, December, 1877.)

On page 287 of the *National Stenographer* which contains Mr. Brown's paper, is a proposition he wishes to be carefully noted: "Never since the ninth edition has there been published any version of phonography upon which, prior to its promulgation, the great body of practical phonographers, English and American, have had a chance to declare their suffrages by direct vote or through duly chosen representatives." In the first part of the same paragraph he tells us that the great body of phonographers in England and America elected representatives to an international council, clothed with authority to consider all questions of proposed shorthand improvements, and to determine what should be accepted as the system of phonetic shorthand for the two countries. That is to say, there was, at that time, but one system of phonetic shorthand, upon which its various writers, both in England and America, had, from time to time, suggested improvements according to their individual fancy or judgment. Mr. Brown states that this Council agreed to certain changes, which were incorporated into the system, and that the system, as thus amended, became what has since been known as the ninth edition. He has not thought it worth while to suggest what other changes might or might not have been incorporated into the system had the great body of practical phonographers declared their preferences by direct vote, or had other individual phonographers than those who constituted the Phonetic Council been chosen as representatives. The mere fact that a dozen or more representatives decide in favor of a particular system, proves nothing beyond the fact that the dozen have thus shown their individual preferences. And even if the decision of the representative body be afterward approved by every living stenographer, how could such approval,



in the slightest degree, determine or affect the question of superiority as between the particular system thus approved and a later system, upon the merits of which no representative or direct vote has ever been taken? Does Mr. Brown suppose that, if a direct vote were taken to-day, the ninth edition would be selected as *the* system? Neither Mr. Underhill nor Mr. Parkhurst, who were members of the Phonetic Council, would prefer that system, for, since that council, each has devised a system of his own, and each has used his own system for many years, and, of course, prefers no other.\* If Mr. Brown considers the consensus of opinion among stenographers generally to be the criterion of the merits of a system, why has he not adduced the opinions of some of the leading reporters of the present day in favor of the eighth or the ninth edition Pitman style, instead of the opinions of a few individuals of a remote past, few of whom ever did an hour's reporting with the eighth or ninth edition style, and none of whom, as a matter of course, knew anything about any other style? If, as he seems to claim, each of the modern systems is to be deemed inferior to the ninth edition *because* no decision, by any representative council or by direct vote of stenographers generally, has ever been given with regard to the merits of any of the modern systems, why should not we be justified in claiming the ninth edition to be inferior to the modern systems because no such decision, with regard to the comparative merits of the ninth edition, has ever been given since the promulgation of the various modern systems? The very fact that the ninth edition style has been almost entirely supplanted by the modern systems, is overwhelming proof of the superiority of the latter; for it would be impossible for an unprejudiced mind to believe that a whole generation could by any conceivable means be induced to throw aside the ninth edition and to adopt in its place other systems so greatly inferior to it as Mr. Brown would have us believe them to be. When we see the entire body of the stenographers of the age standing in direct opposition to the claims of Mr. Brown upon this question, no answer to his assertions is necessary, for the case is already decided against him by the very tribunal to which his appeal is addressed.

But let us look a little further into Mr. Brown's position. He says: "What a laughing stock any man

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\* Mrs. Burnz and Mr. Longley were also members of the Phonetic Council, and each has since devised and published a new system.—*Ed.*

would make of himself if he should seriously speak of such an assemblage [as the Phonetic Council] as practicable to-day! The factions and dissensions of more recent times were then unknown." But, conceding Mr. Brown's statement with regard to the Phonetic Council, there must have been differences of opinion, if not serious dissensions, prior to that Council, or there would have been no necessity whatever for holding a Phonetic Council. And if there had been no differences of opinion *after* the general adoption of the 9th edition—differences of opinion as to the sufficiency of that style for the highest grades of reporting—Mr. Brown and a good many other Pitman writers would not have thought it advisable to adopt any of Graham's expedients; and the fact that factions and dissensions have sprung up since the 9th edition was promulgated, and still exist among practical reporters, many of whom were originally 9th edition writers, is, as I have already suggested, strong presumptive evidence that the 9th edition has not been generally satisfactory.

Mr. Brown overlooks the fact that shorthand, like every other science, is evolutionary. Such a thing as retrogression in any science, is unknown; and no one, excepting Mr. Brown, has ever conceived it possible for a living organism to lie dormant for half a century, in a fertile soil and under conditions favorable to its development.

" Good, once put in action or in thought,  
Like a strong oak, doth from its boughs shed down  
The ripe germs of a forest."

Mr. Brown gloats over the fact that "the suffrages of the reporting profession at large have not been asked, before incorporating into any text-book the novelties which met the individual approval of the author or authors, and that no phonetic council, nor any like assemblage, representing the judgment of the mass of practical, professional shorthand writers, has been called on to sanction or reject proposed innovations." Was the 8th edition, or any previous edition of phonography, submitted to a phonetic council, or to the mass of professional shorthand writers, individually or collectively, before it was incorporated into any text-book? Did Harvey submit his theory of the circulation of the blood to an international convention of physicians, before he ventured to publish it? Did the ridicule with which his theory was received by the learned doctors of his day disprove its correctness? Were the discoveries of Galileo any the less veri-

table, because of the opposition and persecution that he encountered at the hands of the monks of Pisa and of Florence? If Columbus had been deterred by the sneers of the then civilized world, from attempting to verify his belief in the existence of a western continent, it is more than probable that Mr. Brown never would have had the extreme pleasure of announcing his own chimerical and evanescent theories in the city of Chicago in the year of grace 1893!

But Mr. Brown finally settles down to the consideration of the only vital question in the whole discussion. On page 296 of the proceedings of the World's Congress, he says, "These shabby substitutes for phonography undertake to meet, but they meet inadequately and delusively, a demand which phonography can and should meet adequately and honestly. If phonographers \* \* \* can bring themselves to forego some of the darling hooks and ticks and other abbreviating contrivances, \* \* \* if they will co-operate in an effort to make phonography what its first promulgators intended and hoped it should be—an art for the people—an art suited, at least in its humbler uses, to the average mind and the average hand—the fraudulent 'three months' systems will be crowded from the field by a phonography which, even in three months, can accomplish for learners most valuable results—results *varying according to the student's abilities and application*, but far more valuable than those that any other system can offer."

Unquestionably, the old phonography, "in its humbler uses," was suited to the average mind and the average hand. But what has Mr. Brown shown the average mind and the average hand capable of accomplishing with the old phonography, beyond the humbler uses for which a system of shorthand should be adapted? Has he shown that the old phonography has been sufficient for *reporting* uses, except in the hands of an extremely small proportion of the large number who have given it a thorough, practical test? He quotes Mr. Rockwell as saying, "Probably not more than one person out of one hundred who take up the study of shorthand, is physically or mentally qualified to make a verbatim reporter." This is, of course, without reference to any particular system. "But," Mr. Rockwell adds, "any intelligent person with a good general education is capable of learning enough of the art to make a successful business amanuensis." In connection with this quotation, Mr. Brown asks, "Should our text-books and our course of

instruction be devoted to the ninety-nine students who constitute the rule, or to the one student who constitutes the exception?" By asking this question, Mr. Brown shows that he has not understood Mr. Rockwell's proposition; for the latter has included in the ninety-nine students many who are below the standard of intelligence and education which both he and Mr. Brown have assumed—and I think rightly assumed—to be essential in mastering shorthand for even the humbler uses to which it is at present applied. It would therefore seem absurd to inquire whether our text-books and our course of instruction should be devoted to the ninety-nine students who constitute the rule; and yet Mr. Brown intimates that the whole ninety-nine ought to be provided for, regardless of the single individual who constitutes the exception—and who, he seems to think, is always capable of attaining the maximum of the art by acquiring a modicum of the science.

Mr. Brown seems to have taken the wrong standpoint for determining what the character of a system should be—the standpoint of the average mind and the average hand. The time may come, when the average mind and the average hand shall be able to report verbatim, but the system does not exist to-day, that will enable the mediocrist to accomplish it. In determining what the character of a system should be, a number of questions suggest themselves:—

1. Should the system be adapted to the average mind and the average hand, for the humbler uses only?
2. Should it be adapted to the average mind and the average hand, for the higher uses?
3. Should it be adapted to individuals having superior mental characteristics, but only the average hand, for the humbler uses only?
4. Should it be adapted to individuals having superior mental characteristics, but only the average hand, for the higher uses?
5. Should it be adapted to individuals having both mental and physical characteristics of a superior kind, for the higher uses?—or,
6. Should it be so constructed—from the presentation of the simplest elements to the most advanced point of practical elaboration and refinement—as to make it not only adapted to the average mind and the average hand, but also adapted to individuals having superior mental and physical characteristics, *for all the uses* to

which the different classes, respectively, may be capable of applying it?

These are questions which each individual author must decide for himself,—and I think each individual author, up to the present time, has done so, by constructing his system upon the basis of an affirmative answer to the last question—by giving his system as wide a scope as possible.

It is difficult to suppose that Mr. Brown believes that no modern text-book contains as good a presentation of the simple features of phonography as the works of Andrews and Boyle contained. We must assume, of course, that he has given the entire field of phonographic literature the fullest investigation, preparatory to the consideration of the general subject of which his paper treats. The fact that he is familiar with Graham's Handbook and Munson's Complete Phonographer, is manifest from the direct allusions he has made to some of their distinctive features. It is impossible to understand how he could have failed to recognize in each of these works not only a lucid and complete presentation of a simple style of legitimate phonography which the average mind can learn and the average hand can write as readily and as satisfactorily as that which the works of Andrews and Boyle contained, but also a lucid presentation of an elaborated style of the same phonography, which is capable of being learned and mastered for reporting purposes by individuals possessing no extraordinary mental or physical qualifications—such a presentation, in other words, as brings the art of writing shorthand within the reach of a much larger class than either the 8th or the 9th edition of Pitman phonography was adapted to.

Mr. Brown recognizes the fact that modern text books have gone beyond the point of development of the science that was reached in the days of Andrews and Boyle, when he says: "Why undertake to cram into the brain of every shorthand student, though he aspires immediately to nothing but the humblest amanuensis work, all and more than all the abbreviating expedients that the most advanced reporter can ever need?" That any modern author has attempted, or even thought of, cramming into the brain of a student anything beyond his capabilities or needs, may not, perhaps, be inconceivable to Mr. Brown—but it is not probable that many others have ever imagined such a thing. But by what criterion does he determine the kind or the number of abbreviating expedients that a "most advanced reporter"

other than himself can have need of? It is to be presumed that he considers himself a most advanced reporter, and yet he uses very many more abbreviating expedients than Mr. Murphy uses. This being so, it follows, according to Mr. Brown's peculiar reasoning, either that Mr. Murphy—who is also a most advanced reporter—uses fewer abbreviating expedients than the most advanced reporter can have need of, or that Mr. Brown uses more than the most advanced reporter can have need of. If Mr. Murphy uses fewer expedients than he needs, it follows that he would do better work than he does if he used more; if Mr. Brown uses more than he himself needs, then he is doing the very thing that he condemns modern authors for giving students the means of doing. If his reporting style was, as Mr. Irland says, “formed by the exercise of his own practical, independent judgment,” he surely ought to be consistent enough to give every student the privilege of exercising his own practical, independent judgment, in the way that he himself did when he studied from one or more of the very text books that he now condemns.

But what would Mr. Brown have to say about the abbreviating expedients that Mr. Charles Flowers and Mr. Fred Irland use, both of whom write Graham's “second reader” style, and consequently use still more expedients than he himself does? They are both “most advanced reporters,” and have doubtless used the expedients that they have seen fit to employ, with entire satisfaction and success. Mr. Brown seems to have entirely overlooked the matter of the adaptation of each individual student to the particular system, or to special features of the particular system, or *vice versa*, so far as relates to *the highest possible results to be accomplished by the particular individual*. His ideal system seems to be one that is adapted in the highest degree, *and as a whole*, to the average mind and the average hand. That the average mind and the average hand should be provided with an adequate system, for the higher as well as for the humbler uses, is “a consummation devoutly to be wished;” but that the average mind and the average hand, combined in one individual, has ever attained to verbatim speed with the use of the eighth or the ninth edition style is extremely doubtful.

But even supposing that none of the modern systems is as well adapted, for the humbler uses, to the requirements and capabilities of the average mind and the average hand as the old phonography was, what is to be said

about the capabilities of the established modern systems for the higher uses, in the hands of individuals intellectually and physically qualified, as compared with the capabilities of the old phonography for the higher uses, in the hands of individuals having the highest intellectual and physical qualifications? Do the majority of the expert writers of to-day write the old style? What is the ratio of expert reporters among professional writers of the old phonography?—and how does it compare with the ratio of expert reporters among professional writers of the modern styles? Mr. Brown stands significantly mute on these points, as he does on a number of other very important points! If his desire is, as he says, that shorthand, both as a science and as an art, shall be brought down to the capacity of the average mind and the average hand, no one will question his right to entertain that desire; but if he wishes to elevate it to the standpoint of the reporting requirements of the present day, he must direct his efforts to the establishment of a system that will meet such requirements, irrespective of any question as to its adaptability to the average mind and the average hand. The 8th edition did not meet the requirements of forty years ago, except in the hands of a very small proportion of those who wrote it; and the 9th edition was but little more adequate. And while Graham's Handbook, to the self-taught student, is often a labyrinth of difficulty, yet the expedients to be found in it, and in the Second Reader and Dictionary, make it possible for the average hand to attain a speed twenty per cent. greater than that it was possible for the average hand to attain with either the 8th or the 9th edition. The average mind, however, would hardly be up to the standard of intellectuality required by the Graham system. Mr. Brown's use of some of Graham's expedients, proves that he believes the 9th edition not quite brief enough for his own purposes; but his denunciation of the Graham system, as a whole, shows a nice discernment on his part of the dangers that must be encountered in the use of that system as a whole—a discernment which has caused many other writers, having due regard to legibility, to prefer a less contracted style, even at the expense of speed. Mr. Brown, however, like many other Pitman writers, either through failure to make proper tests, or otherwise, has failed to appreciate other methods and expedients for attaining speed, without loss of legibility, than those of the Graham system. It is very evident that he has no *practical* acquaintance with at least two

other modern systems ; and had he given them more than a cursory examination, he must have seen that both the average mind and the average hand are much better provided for, in each of them, than either the average mind or the average hand was provided for in any other text-book ever published, either for reporting purposes or for the "humbler uses."

So far as verbatim reporting is concerned, the question whether a particular system is adapted to the average mind and the average hand, is incidentally, but not primarily, important. What leading text-book, in any branch of modern science, has been written with sole regard to the capabilities of the average individual for mastering the particular system it treats of? If a text-book, gotten up by an expert, gives a lucid and complete presentation of the most advanced features and developments of a particular science—a science that is capable of being mastered and is likely to be used by a sufficient number of persons to make it, as thus presented, of material advantage to the world—such a text-book is certainly worthy of the highest commendation, as being the means of making attainable the highest objects embraced in the science, even though the science is wholly beyond the reach of the average mind to acquire it. But when a text-book, in addition to providing for learners having superior mental and physical qualifications, provides also, in the most ample and satisfactory manner, for the average mind and the average hand, any condemnation of the book on the ground that it contains more than the average mind and the average hand can ever successfully make use of, would be unworthy of serious consideration.

As to the effect of Mr. Brown's paper upon the present status of phonography there is but little to fear. It is not at all likely that any practical stenographer to-day—unless it be Mr. Brown—would think of rejuvenating the eighth edition phonography ; and as he seems to have been, for many years, more or less indifferent to the wants of the average mind and the average hand, though fully conscious of having at his command the means of satisfying those wants, there need be no apprehension that he will assume the entire responsibility, at this late day, of undertaking such a task. The restoration of the ninth edition would be scarcely more feasible, though an effort in that direction on the part of Mr. Brown would be less inconsistent, in view of his being a writer of that system. But the ninth edition, in spite of the enthusi-



astic efforts of its devotees to make it the standard system, has long since given way to the irresistible advance of modern ideas and modern methods ; and it would be folly for Mr. Brown, with all his present intense solicitude for the average mind and average hand, in the direction in which he craves the co-operation of practical phonographers, to attempt to effect what must appear to the reflecting mind to be impossible. He should have heeded, long ago, the admonition :

" Take the instant way ;  
For Honor travels in a strait so narrow,  
Where one but goes abreast ; keep, then, the path,  
For Emulation hath a thousand sons  
That one by one pursue. If you give way,  
Or edge aside from the direct forthright,  
Like to an entered tide, they all rush by,  
And leave you hindmost."

Mr. Osgoodby—Before the opening of the discussion upon this paper, I wish to make a single remark. Mr. Brown seems to have based very much of his argument upon the fact that the Phonetic Council of 1851-2 acted upon and decided the question what improvements should be made in the 8th edition. It is true that Isaac Pitman did issue several "proposals" to the members of the Council, that they might consider and decide upon the improvements which he wished to make in the system. It is an error, however, into which many have fallen, to suppose that the Council ever decided the matters thus proposed. They were too much absorbed in the subject of phonetic spelling to give their time to the consideration of improvements in phonography, many of the members being entirely unacquainted with the latter. Mr. Pitman therefore withdrew the proposals he had thus made to them, and he stated his reasons for doing so in editorials in the *Phonographer* and *Correspondent*, in the fall of 1852 ; and they were submitted to such members only of the British Phonetic Society as would qualify themselves, by practice upon the proposed changes for two weeks, to act intelligently upon them. It was upon a vote of such members of the Phonetic Society and not upon a vote of the Council, that the changes were adopted. This is an item of history that has been persistently

ignored or misstated (even by such writers as Professor Webster, Mr. Longley, and Mr. Graham), and I take this opportunity to state the facts as they really occurred.

The President—The paper is now open for discussion, and I will call upon Mr. Hill.

Mr. Hill—I am surprised that you call upon new members first. I did not come here to be heard; I came to listen. I suppose this paper will be published in the proceedings. I am not able to discuss it now. I do not think it is a carping criticism, at all, but I regard it as a very able argument, and a very able exposition of the subject, and although I have listened with all my powers, and given it all the attention I could, I wish to give it further study when I can have the printed page before me. I think it is worthy of a good deal of careful study—so much so, that you may hear from me further, at a later day, with relation to it. I propose to give the paper a good deal of study and thought.

The President—We look with favor on Mr. Hill's papers in the *Stenographer*, and shall look with a good deal of interest for a paper relating to this subject.

Mr. Osgoodby—The quotation made by Mr. Brown from Benn Pitman, is one that I well remember—that he could recall instances where his students, by practicing two hours a day, had been able to report sermons within three months after receiving their first lesson. As this was read, it occurred to me that, surprising as the statement appears to be, the full force of it cannot be understood unless we stop for a moment to consider it. What kind of sermons must these have been, that a student could report after so short a course of study?—and if the clergyman spoke at a rate so slow as to permit the student to report him, what must have been the condition of his congregation?—and what was the peculiar training the student received during his three-months course, that enabled him to distinguish so well between the words of the speaker and the snores of the audience?—for, certainly, no audience could remain awake under such a sermon! Seriously, the “three-months” teachers of to-day have

good precedents for their preposterous claims, in the no less preposterous statements quoted by Mr. Brown from the two Pitmans and Mr. Graham.

Mr. Bishop—In attending a church at Rochester, some years ago, I was unlucky enough to fall asleep, through some unknown influence, I don't know what. I do not intend to intimate that Rochester is a sleepy town, nor that its clergymen are of the kind who can be reported by three-months students ; nor even that the matter they choose for their people is such as to induce somnolence. I am sure every one will concede that the stenographers of that town are capable of reporting their sermons—that is, if they can keep awake, and if they are not disturbed too much by the sterterous phonetics of a drowsy congregation. We have some of them here, and one of them can perhaps give us a little additional light upon the old systems. I would like to ask Mr. Osgoodby what text-book he began with.

Mr. Osgoodby—Andrews and Boyle's.

Mr. Bishop—I would also like to ask whether he continued with them, entirely.

Mr. Osgoodby—No ; that is, I learned all I could from the Class-Book and Reader, which I began studying in 1848. Afterwards, I got Webster's Teacher, but I don't remember that I gained much from that. Graham's Reporters' Manual was the best book I had, and it was a good one. Later, I got Benn Pitman's books, but I think I had reported some before I got them. I did some reporting in 1855.

Mr. Bishop—How long was that after you began the study.

Mr. Osgoodby—I think it was seven or eight years, at least, after I began the study. I should state, however, that I had no teacher, and I suppose I studied as any boy would who is trying to learn shorthand without a teacher—interested in the study for a while ; then tiring of it, and dropping it ; then taking it up again, and so on. To say that I studied it for seven or eight years continuously, would be incorrect. Of course, I cannot say how much

time was actually occupied in the study. I remember that it was a very fascinating study to me, and that I received many reprimands from my teachers because other studies were neglected for shorthand. After I began reporting, I went to Detroit, and was engaged in reporting speeches during the Fremont campaign, for a daily paper. I haven't much idea, now, as to how rapidly I could then write, but I do remember that I thought I was a good deal of a fellow at shorthand. I preserved in a scrap-book most of the speeches reported by me during that campaign, and I know they read well, and for a long time I gave myself a good deal of credit because they did. I suppose I should have continued to do so, but for the fact that I one day came upon a page of one of my original transcripts for the compositors, which had in some unaccountable way been preserved among some other papers. To my surprise, I found this transcript full of interlineations and corrections, in the handwriting of Mr. Hosmer, the editor—a handwriting that was perfectly familiar to me. Of course, most of these corrections and alterations were made in "editing" the report—a faculty which I had not then acquired; but I was none the less mortified to find that the excellence of the report was full as much due to his corrections as it was of my notes.

Mr. Bishop—When did you take up Graham?

Mr. Osgoodby—In 1858, if that was the year it was published, and I think it was. I can't say I had very good success with Graham. I learned the system quite thoroughly, and used it readily enough, but I had so much difficulty in reading my notes, that I gradually drifted back into a longer style. I was not quite up to what was required of a writer of very brief forms.

Mr. Bishop—Perhaps you had the average hand?

Mr. Osgoodby—Oh, the hand was all right. I was not so much troubled in writing as in reading. It must have been the "average mind." However, I have the highest respect for Graham's system, and for its successful writers—and I pity the unsuccessful ones. In whatever light others may view his system, Mr. Graham was

a great man, and his work for shorthand was a great work. He was the first one, to my knowledge, who ever *dared* to step out of the old moss-grown track and to test the fullest capabilities of phonography. Other authors may try to ignore the work he has done, but there is no system published to-day that is not permeated with the influence which Mr. Graham has exerted upon the science of phonography. I do not mean to say that every author has adopted expedients which he invented—though some of them undoubtedly have done so—but I do not hesitate to say that, Graham having shown the possibilities of phonography, they have received courage from his example, and have gone far beyond what they ever would have dared to attempt if he had not first demonstrated to them the fact that they were safe in doing so. I honor the memory of Mr. Graham, and I give him the credit of having accomplished more for our art than any other man who ever lived—not excepting even Sir Isaac Pitman—in the courage which he has infused into the authors and practitioners of all systems.

Mr. Bishop—I would like to ask Mr. Osgoodby about what time it was that he adopted the Marsh back-hook for *tion*, and about what time he published his first four-page sheet.

Mr. Osgoodby—That sheet was published in 1877. I cannot say just when I began the use of the back-hook. I began to make my changes in phonography in 1866, or about that time, and I believe Marsh's Manual was published in 1868. I am inclined to think I did not see that book for some years after it was published. I have preserved all my shorthand notes since 1868, and could easily learn from them how soon I began to use that book.

Mr. Bishop—I remember that at the time of our first association meeting in Rochester, in 1878, I received a copy of the printed sheet to which I refer, so that the change must have been made previous to that time.

The President—Perhaps I should cross-examine you a little, Mr. Bishop, and ask you to narrate your experience in learning phonography.

Mr. Bishop—My experience was this—I think I remember it with considerable distinctness : I was a mere boy at school when, about 1856, I got my first shorthand book, which was Webster's *Teacher*. I think probably it was in the next year that I got my next book, which was Graham's *Reporters' Manual*, and with which I see Mr. Osgoodby is familiar ; a green-covered book, and which was, as I understand, substantially, in its principles and development, a reproduction of the ninth edition of Pitman. That I worked over with a good deal of assiduity. I doubt if I practiced writing from reading at all until I had pretty thoroughly mastered everything that was in the manual. I know I practiced by the hour—I cannot say what number of months—but I know some days of the time I practiced five or six hours continuously, over those signs. I wrote on what is called fool's-cap, and filled two or three lines with each one of those signs, and in that way I went entirely through the manual. Then, I was so very fortunate to have a younger brother who could read nicely and distinctly, for one of his years, and I drove him to absolute rebellion, finally, in getting him to read for me for practice, after I had been through the *Reporters' Manual*. I remember that about that time I was in attendance at the Duchess County Academy in Poughkeepsie, and we had a peculiar system there : We had an old Edinburgh University graduate as a principal, who had some quite broad views on education ; and we had, in that city, lyceum and other association courses ; had prominent speakers, like Phillips, Parker, Youmans, and so on, about once a week during the winter, and for our essays in school we had the option and opportunity, instead of writing anything original, to furnish an outline report, for each occasion, of one of those lyceum or other lectures. And that was what I first used my shorthand on ; and I soon found that I had no difficulty in getting the credit of presenting very much more satisfactory analyses, you might say, or extended abstracts or summaries, of those addresses, than any one else in the school gave. In fact, it was one of

the points on which I received considerable commendation, from the old Scotchman who was our principal ; but I found then—and this was I think two years, or a year and a half at least, after I had begun to study shorthand, and after I had been through these books, which were substantially a reproduction of the Ninth Edition, and after I had practiced to the extent I have mentioned, and principally from reading—I then found that any speaker of average speed pretty quickly got ahead of me. Some read their addresses : some read slowly. Theodore Parker read slowly ; Wendell Phillips, when he spoke, spoke slowly, deliberately, without a single note ; but any of those men who read, or Phillips who spoke extemporaneously, would get away from me, practically ; and the best I could do would be, to give an outline or sketch of what was said. Often I would get a sentence complete ; but the next would very likely be incomplete ; and the next, an adumbration, you might say—the merest hint or outline. So my experience, with my “ average hand ” and less than “ average brain,” was, with the shorthand that I then studied, that it took a good many months to take a fairly accurate *sketch*—not verbatim—of these addresses. Before I went to New York, which was in 1861,—when I was nineteen years old—I tested myself somewhat from reading, and found that I could write one hundred and sixteen words a minute, and read it—read it, with occasionally a slip, perhaps. Then I was tested in New York before being engaged by the people to whom I afterwards went ; and I was tested on work of the kind which I afterwards did. Recollect, it was not speech making—it was spoken with fair accuracy, requiring no revision except perhaps occasionally the changing of a word. Within a few months afterwards I took up Graham, and spent five or six hours a day on it. We were not very busy, I had the leisure, and I spent five or six months going through the hand-book—everything in it relating to shorthand. I never troubled myself with the phonetic part preceding the *Compendium* ; but the rest I think I mastered as thoroughly as anybody

could. I do not think there was anything in it I did not know, or did not use at that time, although I very shortly ceased using various devices, such as the enlarged brief *y's* and *w's*—I never could reconcile myself to those things, and did not long use them. There were two or three very brief single-stroke hooked signs, like those for "*ought to have*," "*ought to have had*," in first position, and, in third position, "*it would have had*." I relinquished those very quickly. I made up my mind that the other sign for "*ought*," to which "*have*" joined easily, was brief enough for my "*average*" mind and average hand to cope with ; and I wanted the other sign for "*whatever*," solely. In 1862 and 1863, I reported speeches for the papers, and in 1863 I did my first law reporting. I am free to say that when I took my first legal argument, by the *not* much "*lamented*" Thomas C. Fields, who did legislative work in Albany, and afterwards, for his safety, went to Canada, I found that the Honorable Thomas went considerably away from me : I got "*left*." I did the best I could. The next whom I reported in a legal way was Mr. Luther R. Marsh, who was one of the most beautifully accurate speakers we ever had at the New York bar, and I think I "*took*" him accurately. I remember he handed to me extracts or citations which he had read ; but I was not "*up*" enough in law reporting at that time to know that I would need them ; I recollect I went on trying to take notes of everything that was read. I was going to say, from my experience, recollecting that my hand and brain may have been below the "*average*," that it took me three or four years before I could take an ordinary speech and be certain that I had it verbatim. I don't know what the experience has been of these other gentlemen, but my experience has been considerable, and has been such as to indicate that the average speaker will go far beyond the "*taking*" power of any three-months' or any six months' stenographer, however brilliant. A speaker whom a stenographer of such short experience can keep up with must be distressingly slow ; and I understand that Mr. Brown's own experience amply confirms this.



Now, I was a young shorthand writer, very much interested in some of the older men who became my friends, who were in middle life when I was a beginner. Parkhurst, whom all know of, was of course one of our veterans. He lost his position as an "official" of our Superior Court two or three years ago,—in what way I know not, though it may have been because his place was desired for some one else. Whether his years had impaired his powers, I do not know. It is true—as we all know and as Mr. Bowman says—that Mr. Parkhurst was not satisfied with the editions of text-books he found in 1855 : he made *radical* changes. Parkhurst was in Washington as the head of the *Washington Union* Corps of Stenographers during the very tempestuous times previous to the Rebellion. I have heard him speak of the manner in which Mr. Henry S. Foote was nonplussed and angered, when in some discussion he became very much excited, and very roundly denounced that cool-headed and imperturbable debater, William H. Seward, his anger becoming uncontrollable when Mr. Seward, hearing his name, carelessly looked up from the paper he was reading, and looked at Mr. Foote, listened a moment, whirled round rather contemptuously, and resumed reading his paper as though nothing worth noticing were happening. You speak also of Mr. Burr. The names of Burr and Lord occur to me together. They were associated in business in the times before the establishment of the *Congressional Record*. They used to spend part of their summers in New York, when congress was not in session ; and used to do much reporting. Mr. Burr was a man of less physical endurance than Mr. Lord. Mr. Lord was a very strong, glorious fellow, in every way ; he wrote a dashing shorthand, and was looked on as a man who could, from his own notes, with his own hand, write out more matter in a given time than almost anybody else of that day. I recollect Mr. Burr told me of an interesting incident, where he and Lord reported Mr. Emerson. Mr. Burr stated that Mr. Lord went on in his usual rather rough and ready style of writing—care-

lessly ; but he, perceiving at once that Mr. Emerson was using words not familiar—they might have been familiar, but peculiar—proceeded, as the slowness of the talk permitted, to *vocalize* a good deal ; and he said when they came to write out Mr. Emerson, Mr. Lord almost utterly failed to read his notes, and he himself had to come to the rescue. Burr and Lord were distinguished law stenographers, as well. They had the reporting of one of the earliest great court cases in New York in which the stenographer was very actively brought into requisition—the great case of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co. and the Pennsylvania Coal Co. I have been in cases where the stenographers received larger aggregate fees ; but the fees in that case ran up into many thousands ; and the younger stenographers—I was then young—listened to the details of those large fees with a great deal of interest. Mr. Lord and Mr. Burr were exceedingly fortunate financially. They made some investments in a Rio Janeiro Street Railroad, which would have enabled both of them to retire ; Burr did retire, but Lord kept on ; and in some of the committees in congress,—in 1876, I think it was—he over-worked, caught cold, and may be said to have “died in the harness.” He was a wonderful man in many ways. I think Mr. Burr is still living. Then, they had with them—and this bears on the capabilities of minds that were not ordinary and hands that were *not* average—in that same senate congressional corps under Parkhurst—one who was afterwards one of our Supreme Court stenographers, and who did a great deal of work outside, Mr. James L. Crosby. I remember an important case I had, where the lawyers talked against time, as well as on the merits. I got Mr. Crosby to help me ; and I remember with pleasure how easy to him seemed work that to the ordinary shorthand writer was very difficult. He was one of the most marvellous men in the use of the hand that I ever saw. I think his shorthand was the Andrews and Boyle style, with a few modifications of his own. I never saw him take an examination or argument, no matter how rapid, but that

he could dictate it to another stenographer about as fast as the stenographer could write it. And then, what ease ! As a lawyer friend said to me, "What poetry of motion ! His writing is as easy as breathing !" He used an old-fashioned fountain pen as a dip pen, preferring it because it held so much ink. He was a writer as much ahead of the "average mind and average hand" among shorthand writers, as any I know of ; and I think any stenographer in New York who was familiar with his work while he retained his health, would say the same thing. Mr. Oliver Dyer has also been spoken of. I think he is still connected with the *New York Ledger* editorially. I have met him within two or three years, going up or down town. He is a linguist and scholar—I think he told me he understood Hebrew ; he occasionally preaches, being a Swedenborgian ; he has lately written and published a volume of Congressional Reminiscences, of the ante-war times ; and his reminiscences of the early daily-journal days in New York, especially of his first application to Mr. Greeley for a place, and of the rather profane way in which that great journalist was wont to sometimes express himself, are exceedingly entertaining. It was a red-letter evening of the old Law Stenographers' Association of N. Y. City, when he was at one of our dinners (I am confident it was in 1877, when I was president of that body ;) for he gave us the most entertaining "early-days" speeches that we ever had. Mr. Andrews I also knew, but Mr. Boyle I never saw, to my remembrance. Mr. Andrews was latterly occupied with other things, and apparently had ceased to take much interest in shorthand, though he always responded with great cordiality when the subject was mentioned.

Mr. King—I have been very much interested in Mr. Bowman's paper. I did not gather from it exactly whether he intended to advocate the extremely short forms of Graham or not.

Mr. Osgoodby—I think he does rather oppose them, but he does not attempt to make any particular point, it seems to me, excepting to combat the allegation

that the old eighth and ninth editions were superior to the later versions, without referring to any particular ones.

Mr. Bishop—And that they were not adequate, for the higher uses, except for the extraordinary brain and extraordinary hand.

The President—Mr. Heffley practices one of the modern systems, I believe.

Mr. Heffley—I don't know that you would call it a modern system. It is Benn Pitman's that I use, so that I suppose I might be termed a ninth edition writer.

Mr. Bishop—I understood, Mr. President, that one deduction that perhaps Mr. Bowman intended to draw, was this: Take for instance the Graham system—that if there were one whose brain and hand permitted him to use with facility all those things with accuracy, and they could be read, it was a good thing for him; that it might perhaps be a good thing to have such a system of shorthand for those who could use it, but so arranged that, for the ordinary brain and hand, it could be amplified so that the less skilled man, the less happily endowed man, might use longer forms.

Mr. King—As most of the people here seem to be in favor of the longer forms, I would like to hear from the President. I believe he uses Graham's.

The President—I have expressed the opinion many times, in regard to Graham's, and I think it is true of all systems, that the simple acquirement of the rules is only a step in the making of the reporter. I think the training of the mind, whatever system is used, is the part that requires the great length of time. We all are accustomed to listening to speakers and gathering ideas of sentences and phrases, and we attempt to write phonetically; each word must make an impression on the mind, and the mind must work in regard to each word, and it requires a long time to acquire facility in doing that. As I have studied but one system, I am free to say that I am not capable of judging between the eighth and ninth editions of Pitman, or Mr. Osgoodby's, or Mr. Bishop's, as com-

pared with Mr. Graham's. Although I do not think I write down to the finest point advocated by Mr. Graham in condensation, still I use a great many of his expedients, and have always been able to read my notes, and have always been able to have them read by others.

Mr. Hill—I believe, with the president, that it is the mind that makes the man. I do not like to express myself, because when one speaks he is supposed to assume for himself something of authority. I am a very young man in shorthand, and I do not like to assume that attitude. I do wish, however, to endorse the president's view of the case. I have written shorthand for ten years, and I am a great believer in the long-term theory. I am not afraid at any time to be tested, but I know that I am not nearly as good a stenographer to-day as I shall be five years from now ; I know there is much room for improvement. While I have never known what fear was, in facing a person I had to take, whether on office dictation or a lecture—and have reported for money, not for fun, in which there is a difference, where a good report had to be made, and I have always been able to get every word—that is, almost to the fullest extent of that declaration—yet I am conscious of the fact that I am far from being a first-class stenographer. I believe that it is more likely to take seven years, than seven months, to make a first class stenographer—and even then there is room for improvement. I am willing to go on record as saying so.

The President—We should be glad to hear from Mr. Gokey, who is a practitioner and teacher of the art.

Mr. Gokey—As a teacher, I make one thing my standard, and that one thing makes the student and amanuensis. I never attempt to make a reporter of the student, so far as instruction in the school room goes. I have taken students into the court room with me, and made their notes my check notes, and I have found them, at the age of twenty, after eighteen months of study (practicing from the beginning of their study of shorthand principles), capable of taking the judge's charge to the jury in an ordinary case. In fact, I have found them proficient

enough so that I could go to my school room at the close of each day's session in court, and give my note book to a student who had no knowledge of the case, and no other data on which to base surmises as to notes, and he has succeeded in turning out the transcript of the notes which I gave back to the counsel. He might be regarded as an exceptional student in regard to brain and hand, or it might be an exceptional style of shorthand writing. Take it either way, and I think the result is worthy of record, as I have proven it, not in one case only, but in numerous cases. I think it is perhaps the most exceptional instance that has occurred in my shorthand experience. But when it comes to teaching shorthand to an average student, for use in business offices, I find that eight months will give him the theory, and six of the eight months are spent under my personal direction, doing my business, so that the student has really two months of theory and six months of regular, routine business. It may be that I am an exception. Speaking with Mr. Heffley, I understand that he has something of the same idea with regard to affording the student regular business. I am glad that other educators are taking that view. I find that business men repeatedly call for my students when their present stenographers go higher. They say they find them not only willing to do, but capable of learning and of stepping right in and doing the business of the day.

The President—Miss Moore, you have had some very difficult reporting, as I know, in times past, having for some years reported the New York State Pharmaceutical Association, and we would like to hear from you as to the system you use.

Miss Moore—You know that I write the Graham system. The only trouble with me is, that it is the ordinary brain and the ordinary hand. The first reporting I did, I was almost scared to death.

Mr. Hill—I was a young stenographer in 1885, when the Metropolitan Stenographic Association was organized. I attended the organization meeting and was a member that winter, as I lived in Newark at that time, and I heard

Mr. Edward F. Underhill, whom we in New York are proud to call "the king of court reporters,"—or we did in those days, and we looked upon him with something of reverence and veneration—make several addresses. One was on the subject "Speed." It was a fine address. And during that address he took occasion to refer to Mr. Graham, and, with something of the spirit of animosity, I thought, or unkindness, he said that Mr. Graham was a good reporter ; that he had one great trouble, and that with him was a craze : it was the craze of his life to be able to get out a Hand-Book by which stenographers could write three hundred and fifty words a minute—which Mr. Underhill considered nothing but a craze ; and he spoke derogatorily of the Graham system, and said, to show its weakness, that it was not up to date in the matter of legibility ; and he put great stress upon the word *legibility*,—which of course was the right view of it. He said that Mr. Graham, when asked to read his notes in court, had been obliged to reply, after scrutinizing them, that they were not adapted to ready reference. I wish to give that little incident from what Mr. Underhill said. I am a Graham writer.

Miss Moore—Don't you think that the personal equation enters into all such things ? As I say, I do not pretend to have more than an average mind and average hand, but if a word-sign is once thoroughly fixed in my mind I can always remember it ; but if it is not thoroughly learned—I prefer to draw a veil over what follows.

Mr. Hill—That statement of Mr. Underhill, which had considerable weight, coming from him, was received by the Metropolitan Association—which was so large an association at that time they could hardly get in the building—with a great deal of approbation, and I found they were not disposed to look upon a Graham writer with favor ; the Munson system in New York, seems to be the favorite system. A Graham writer then was somewhat looked upon with scorn ; the idea seemed to prevail that he could write shorthand and he was entitled to the name of a Graham, or shorthand *writer*, but that he was not a shorthand *reader*.

Mr. Osgoodby—I think the statement has been contradicted, that Mr. Graham made that remark.

Mr. Hill—I have never heard or seen it since hearing it come directly from Mr. Underhill's lips.

The President—I do not think the legibility of the Graham system needs any more defense than the fact that Miss Moore has reported the State Pharmaceutical Association for several years with that system.

Mr. Heffley—I simply wish to remark, with respect to the value of shorthand systems, that it is not the system alone, but the user. There are thousands of reporters throughout the country using different systems, and if a man wants to write Graham, let him write it, for he may be naturally fitted to write Graham; he writes shorthand. The man who writes long forms would more naturally be a Munson writer; the man who can cut his notes down and write a fine system, will find Graham better adapted to his use. Whether he writes Mr. Osgoodby's, or Mr. Bishop's, or the 9th edition, or Graham's, or Munson's, I have maintained and I do still maintain, the value of the system depends upon whether it is adapted to his hand. Of course he must have sufficient mental calibre to master the system, but we all know of writers of all the different systems, who are doing first class work. And as to the 9th edition, Graham is of course the 9th edition abbreviated; Munson adopted the 9th edition with two variations, the long forms, and the inversion of the vowels.

Mr. Osgoodby—I think it is an error to suppose that Mr. Munson's forms are longer than those of ninth edition were before Graham's Handbook was published. I am sure an examination of Benn Pitman's magazines will show this.

Mr. King—I have read, and I think it is true, as Mr. Heffley said, that people are adapted to these different systems. I find that when I get to writing rapidly I write my forms longer.

Mrs. White—I do not think that is so with Mr. Rose.



The President—I think it is. I need time, to form phrases beyond the extent of three or four words.

Mr. Hill—A word further: I wish to endorse the sound, practical view of Professor Heffley, and I will say further than that, I believe persons can adapt themselves to any of these systems, according to which system they chance to take up. As to Mr. Underhill, I do not wish it understood that he was attacking Mr. Graham; he had a high opinion of Andrew J. Graham, but his attack was upon his system. I believe that Mr. Underhill is a very modest man, as regards his ability, and that he does not estimate himself and never professed himself as being a stenographer of high ability. I heard him say in this address upon "Speed," as to his own ability to write, that he did not know what he could write, but that he could not write as fast as his reputation gave him the credit of writing—that he had trained students in his office who surpassed him, and that he stood there to give them credit, but that he studied shorthand when it was something of a novelty and when it was more difficult to acquire—that he studied shorthand away back in the years when he was at St. Louis.

Mr. Osgoodby—Did he say he could write only one hundred words a minute when he went there?

Mr. Hill—I will not say that he stated that, but he put the measure of his ability very low, and he was emphatic about it; he wished the stenographers in New York to understand that they had made a mistake in estimating that he was a shorthand writer of great ability, and that he had raised up students who had greater ability, and could do far better than he.

The president appointed the following committees, to report at the morning session, at nine o'clock:

Committee on Nominations of Officers for the coming year: Mr. Bishop, Mr. Gokey and Mrs. White.

Committee on place of holding next meeting: Mr. Heffley, Mr. Hill and Miss Moore.

Committee to Consider the Financial Standing of the Association : Mr. Osgoodby, Miss Cora Emens and Mr. King.

Mr. Bishop moved to adjourn to 8:30 P. M. Carried.

8:30 o'clock P. M.

Meeting called to order by President Rose.

Mr. Gokey—The point that impressed me last year at the meeting at Niagara Falls more than any other, was the fact that the reporter lacks the most essential thing for a good shorthand man, and that is—*memory*. Somewhere I have read that "We do not make our thoughts ; they grow in us, like grain in wood," and it impresses me that it is exactly the reportorial standing of this country to-day. The reporter is the growth which began in the school with the student, and continues from that time, as grain grows in wood, up through the stages of development to the perfect reporter. It seems to me that the average reporter forgets that little germ, away back in his early work as a shorthand student, and lays a great deal of stress upon other subjects, losing sight of the fact that he himself, or she herself, was at one time a student. Of course my work brings me more in connection with the student than it does with the reporter, and yet I hope that my scope is large enough to take in both branches of the profession. I know my own feeling in a courtroom with an official reporter, was that I was in the way, and a simple question asked that reporter met with a rather bluff response. I would like to impress upon the reporter one fact, and that is, that only from the student of to-day can the reporter of the future be selected ; and the young man or young woman cannot be thrown from the common school into the reporter's chair. There must be a series of evolutions before the student in our public schools can be fitted for the duties of the reporter. It is one of the tendencies, as we gain height, to lose sight of the lower rounds of the ladder. In fact, it is the position of most men who have attained standing in the world, to forget the very underlying foundation upon which they

were standing at the time. Take, for instance, the attitude of the reporter toward the shorthand journals. Very few reporters are found among the contributors to the mediums which seek to guide the student in his early endeavors. Of course the reporter is a busy man, but it is his every-day experience *only* that the student needs, and that is easily formulated for printing. Thorne's "Practical Court Reporting" is an illustration of my meaning. Reporters are, as a class, practical workmen, having cast aside all unnecessary labor in the performance of their duties. These same men, however, when they do write an article of suggestions for the student's persual and practice, din into his ears *work! WORK! WORK! practice! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!* but forget to record the successive steps by which these valuable features are to be accomplished. I have had young men who felt that they had no possible chance, after leaving the school room, to become a reporter through the aid or influence of the reporter himself. They had to fight their way through; they had to fight against the influence of the reporter as a usurper, and they had to combat the public influence, so far as recognizing their true worth was concerned. Even after they had proven their ability to make a verbatim report, they were still questioned because they lacked the age that seemed to be necessary in the minds of the people before they could be considered true reporters. And I make the plea for the student, that the reporter treat the student more as we would treat one who is to succeed us in business, and not so much as one who is endeavoring to push upward to oust the reporter from the position he has gained by good, hard work, and the reputation that he values probably more than any other feature of the shorthand profession. That is the little point that has stuck in my memory since the last meeting—the fact that the reporter has gone through the transformation and become blinded to the fact that the transformation was necessary before the student could become worthy of the place as a reporter.

Mr. Bishop—I think, Mr. President, there is a difference among those whom you might call expert reporters. There is certainly a very great difference—you see it among men in court, you see it among men outside—but while with some there is a sort of ostentatious resisting of what the reporter chooses to deem an incursion into territory that he has pre-occupied, or thinks he has, there are a good many in the business who are very generous, and I think as generous as could be expected by the younger members. I know people who make it a point to encourage others. I began in law work by working for another stenographer, or two others, a very well established concern—and I know the tendency of one was to push me ahead quite as rapidly as my own ability would warrant. He was a man of years and experience, but not a very thorough workman, perhaps, himself—he was not a rapid writer. I think he very soon discovered that I wrote considerably more rapidly than he, and he was quite inclined, I think, to send me, and two or three others, whose names you know in shorthand work—to take matters which he himself hesitated to undertake. I know we were sent on arguments which he must have known positively he could not take care of. So I think that the remarks Mr. Gokey has made, that certain things are habitual with the older members of the fraternity, as a rule, are put rather too strongly. That is my experience. I know that some of the active law stenographers at this time, in New York, began as amanuenses; I know Supreme Court stenographers in New York who began as amanuenses for this very man, or his partners, twenty-five years ago. My memory goes back some time—like Mr. Osgoodby's.

Mr. Osgoodby—You should say *sometimes*, rather than “some time !”

The President—If there are no other remarks upon this topic, we will listen to a paper by Col. Dickinson, which will be read by Mr. Bishop.

### **Stenographers' Associations.**

#### **WHAT THEY DO DO; WHAT THEY MIGHT DO; AND WHAT THEY MISS DOING.**

BY EDWARD B. DICKINSON, OF NEW YORK CITY.

Being present by invitation at a meeting held a few months ago, the purpose of which was to form a local branch of the International Association of Stenographers, and expressing there, imperfectly and crudely, it may be, my views on the subject of such associations, it has seemed to me that it would do no harm, and possibly might be of service, to make some more careful and elaborate statement of the potentialities, limitations, and actual performances of such Associations.

There is a very natural tendency on the part of members of the same calling, to unite together in "Leagues" or "Associations" of various titles. The "Bar Associations," the various associations of clergymen, physicians, astronomers, painters, sculptors, scientists, workmen in every field of industry, demonstrate this tendency; and it is quite safe to assume that where there is such a universal impulse, there must be some effective cause behind it. That these associations are probably of value to the particular branch of industry to which they belong, must also be conceded; else they would cease to exist.

Now, this value is in exact proportion, first, to the wisdom of the ends they are formed to accomplish; and second, to the fidelity with which they adhere to the accomplishment of those ends. And as I am dealing with stenographic associations, I will confine myself to a consideration of the ends sought to be accomplished by such associations, and to the fidelity with which such accomplishment is kept in view.

Under Article II. (usually) of the constitutions of the many associations which I have examined, those ends are almost invariably stated, in substance, to be: "To unite stenographers; to elevate and dignify the profession; to promote professional intimacy; to advance, in every proper way, the interests of the profession." Such, with some verbal changes and minor additions or modifications, are the almost uniform official declarations of purpose, on the part of the associations thus formed. That these ends are wise will be admitted; but after making such declarations in their constitutions, that these associations actually *do* anything in the direction of accomplishment cannot be so readily admitted; and that they *can* do anything is also

involved in much doubt. My purpose is to show some things which they might at least *try* to do; some which they *could* do; and to contrast those things with what is actually done.

I take the New York State Stenographers' Association as the representative association in this State, for several reasons: It is one of the oldest; it has among its members active or honorary, many very prominent and accomplished stenographers; and its influence and potentialities are probably greater than those of any other stenographic association in the State. What has this association ever done to carry out the objects for which it was avowedly formed? What could it have done? And what has it left undone?

It was formed nineteen years ago. It holds an annual meeting, usually of two days' duration; it appoints an executive committee; it elects officers; it listens to various essays of greater or less interest on various subjects of greater or less importance, and to remarks thereon; it goes on an excursion or two; it adjourns; its proceedings are published; and then it quietly slumbers for 363 days, or until the next annual meeting. At these meetings about 20 per cent of its membership is present. A few of these not present, send regrets; the majority ignores the whole matter.

In 1887 and in 1888, stimulated thereto by a discussion, which became, I regret to say, somewhat acrimonious, it was the scene of some speed tests which decided, as far as such matters can be decided, the rate of speed at which shorthand can be written under test conditions by those who have specially qualified themselves for just such efforts. In 1887 it published in its proceedings a very long, a very scholarly, and as a work of reference, a very valuable history of the writing of shorthand, prepared by one of its members, Mr. N. P. Heffley, to whom may well be accorded the title of the "American Historian of Stenography." Among the papers read and published, during the nineteen years of its existence, there have been many of interest and of value to the student of stenography. But when these rather negative performances have been recited, there remains very little of a positive character to place to the credit of the association in the line of accomplishing the "advancement of the interests of the profession." I deem it not *mal a propos* to quote from the report of Mr. Rodgers, the President of that association, at the annual meeting at Saratoga in 1892. He says:—"I want, however, to say that one who has

visited one or more of our gatherings, recently saw fit, "before a Western Committee, to substantially declare the "New York Association in a state of dry rot. This state-  
 "ment may not burrow far under the hide ; but 'away  
 "down deep' do you think his stricture so very far out  
 "of the way ? \* \* \* This association would  
 "have long ago gone to pieces but for a very few staunch  
 "workers who have clung to the organization as a thing  
 "worth having and saving. \* \* \* I trust that  
 "this subject may receive some radical attention, or else  
 "let us as an organization asphyxiate as soon as possible,  
 "each supporting his own constitution, which should  
 "read something like this:—

"Name, immaterial ; object, fun ;

"Offices, numerous ; membership, one ;

"Meetings, continuous ;

"Voting, unanimous ;"

And he might have added :

"Action, harmonious ; for NOTHING is done."

These are the words of a New York Supreme Court stenographer of the highest standing ; of mature years ; and the retiring president of the body to which they are addressed. And as one of its members I regret to say that I believe them to be true. If it had not been for a few "staunch workers" I, too, believe that the organization would have died, if not of asphyxiation, certainly of heart failure, long ago—but yet, as a perusal of its reports would reveal, it has in its membership many of the very best stenographers in the State ; and many of the papers read, reveal scholarship, sound sense, and entire earnestness.

The principal reasons why the New York Association, with all its advantages, actually accomplishes so little, are not far to seek. That which gives it its greatest prestige, is this same membership, and its seniority in organization. There is this element of weakness, however, in its strongest point. Those members who are most prominent and most influential, are extremely busy men, during ten months of the year. They have *no time* to attend to these matters. However great their interest may be, the imperative demands of a most exacting profession preclude the possibility of their devoting much time to association matters. Furthermore, the association is dormant during the entire year. No meeting occurs between August and August. The Executive Committee, it is true, has certain powers. But it would hardly be justified in calling a special meeting of members

scattered from Buffalo to Brooklyn. Hence in the very nature of things, as at present organized, it can do but little, if anything. And this fact is quite well known to the members. Thus the "dry rot" alluded to has gradually but surely been sapping whatever of energy and vital force the association ever possessed.

What is true of this great association, is also true in some degree of the lesser bodies. I have attended meetings of the various associations in New York and Brooklyn. They are composed largely of the younger shorthand writers, amanuenses, and type-writer operators of both sexes. They have practice rooms; and I have been compelled to admit that there was more enthusiasm and interest manifested than I had any reason to expect. But beyond the social features, and the "becoming better acquainted," with what slight advantages might accrue from practice from mutual dictation, and the charm of exchanging romances about their individual achievements in the way of writing a great, great many different words in a minute, I have failed to appreciate any especial benefit these associations have been to the shorthand interests of the community in which they were located.

Be it understood that I am not declaiming against associations of stenographers. Not at all. If stenographers take pleasure in associating; if it is any relaxation; if it results in any improvement, mental, moral, or social, to any of them; if it promotes a better acquaintance between the members; by all means let them form such associations. My contention is not as to associations; it relates wholly to their official declarations in their constitution, or elsewhere, that they are formed "for the purpose of elevating and dignifying the profession, and promoting its interests." And I assert that until they begin to *do* something positive, actual and aggressive, in that direction, they are not "elevating, dignifying, or promoting" anything, to any appreciable degree.

I do not think that an older member of any profession serves any good purpose, or advances any interests, his own or other, by simply assuming the role of iconoclast, or destroyer. It is too easy to find fault; it is easy to condemn; and it is very easy, as I have discovered, to be *mistaken*. The reformer who expects to reform anything, must at least be able to clearly set forth what reforms he proposes to inaugurate; so that they may be compared with the existing state of things, to the end that his theories may in turn be criticised, adopted, modified or rejected, on their merits. Having clearly stated my conviction as to



the almost uselessness of associations as they at present exist, so far as any practical results of general benefit are concerned, I will, as clearly as I may be able, state some of the things they might do; some of the evils they might abate; some of the points they might discuss, even of greater "interest" to the "profession" at large than whether it is better to write "embarrass" and "empowers" in a similar outline or not; or whether one can write with the greater facility in the afternoon, or in the forenoon. But no association will accomplish anything, if the individual members will not unite for its accomplishment. Let us revert again to this as the Senior Association—the New York State Association with its influential membership, the prestige of its long organization—and let me suggest, as I did in my annual report in 1888, some of the possibilities within the reach of that organization, in the line of living up to its "organic law."

Some years ago, a man was appointed the official stenographer of one of our Courts of Record; and the only qualifications he possessed for the office (aside from being a good fellow) were that he had learned a little shorthand and he was a relative of the appointing power. He was sworn in; and he qualified himself for the position, after he got it, at the expense of the State. And whenever any counsel wanted a correct record of any trial which took place in that particular Court, he had to retain some other stenographer to do the work.

Now suppose this Association cognizant of that appointment (as it was; for it was an open secret), had protested, as citizens and tax payers, as well as an organization familiar with the facts, against such an appointment; and had stated with brutal frankness, if need be, the reasons for the protest; does anybody suppose that it would have had no weight? There is not a reputable newspaper which will not give space for protests of this kind, made by dispassionate and reputable associations. Does anybody suppose that the appointing powers would not be cautious in appointments if they knew that a competent and duly organized body of the same guild as the appointee would certainly protest, if such appointee were incompetent? And does anybody suppose that the public at large who are interested in the accuracy of the reports of their Courts, would not sustain such a protest made on such grounds?

Some months ago, in another of our Courts of Record, the counsel for the plaintiff (I will say) offered in evidence the transcript of the notes of a "stenographer" of

a District Court. The opposing counsel objected on the ground that the "stenographer" was incompetent to make that, or any other record; and in support of his objection, he asked the court to direct the "stenographer," (who was then on the stand to prove his notes) to sit at the table and write from his (the counsel's) reading. The Court so directed; and upon the reading test, which was not at an unreasonable rate of speed, the stenographer failed utterly both to take and to read back what was read to him. And his transcript was rejected as incompetent and as not a record.

Suppose that when this District Court "stenographer" was appointed (I think he had been a policeman, who had to be "taken care of") this Association had, through its President or Executive Committee, directed some of its Brooklyn members—myself, for instance—to investigate into the facts of the appointment; and upon a report that such appointee had been a policeman (or whatever it was) but had never been a shorthand writer, and was incompetent even for the less exacting duties of a District Court, the Association had referred the matter to the Brooklyn Stenographers' Association; and that that Association had protested; and had published its protest in our daily papers, which are very open to all who have any grievance which is real; does anybody suppose that the Brooklyn Association's protest would have been disregarded? Or that that Association would not have done an aggressive something in the way of living up to its declared principles of organization? Or that it would not have "advanced" the real "interests of the profession" in showing up such an appointment? For there are some things which even the American public, fool though it is said to be, can understand without the aid of a monkey wrench or a guide book; and one of them is that a man who can't write shorthand should not be appointed as a stenographer of a Court, to be paid a salary for his ignorance by the same American public.

I have been informed, and I verily believe, that certain Justices of District Courts demand and receive, either directly or indirectly, a part of the salary of their stenographers, in return for appointing them. And I was informed of one case where a Justice deliberately appointed one of his "retainers" to the position of a stenographer in his Court, who did not know and could not write a word of shorthand; and this appointee hired another "sub-retainer" who *did* know something about the art of shorthand writing, to do the work for him; and he

gave him half the salary; that is to say; retainer No. 1, received \$800 per annum, for doing nothing; and the sub-retainer received \$800 for doing such of the work as he was able to do. Thus two retainers were "taken care of," shared the same position, and the City paid the bill.

Assuming such to be the state of affairs, they could be very easily ascertained by an influential association bent upon such discovery and determined to suppress such things if they existed. And again I ask, does anybody suppose that their vigorous exertions would be without avail? Or that the real "interests of the profession" would not be "advanced," if the public knew that there was a watchful body of intelligent, resolute men, thoroughly competent and duly organized and officered, who made it their business to take aggressive steps against abuses of the appointing power just as soon as the stenographic profession became involved? Nobody can suppose otherwise than that such action would prove a very marked corrective.

But such action, to be availing, must be united; it must call a spade a spade; it must be relentless, just as soon as it knows it is right; it must *act* without fear, favor or affection, no matter whose "feelings are hurt" or whose vanity is wounded. Who ever heard of a stenographic association in the United States of America ever doing any such practical thing as that? Who ever heard of any such association entering an emphatic protest through the public press or through any other channel, against the appointment, or employment in public salaried positions, of stenographers, so-called, who were utterly incompetent to do what they were paid their salaries for doing? Nobody. The "elevating the profession" by depressing frauds and shams and braggarts, does not seem to have occurred to any association as a very efficient method of accomplishing that result. No; the "decadence of the halving principle" the proper use of the tick "h," the "underlining of proper names" and other similar questions, possibly of use to beginners, are seriously brought before the veteran and accomplished official stenographers of the New York Courts of Record at their annual meetings; and the greater question of "what shall we do to be saved" from the things which have been steadily working against and deteriorating the standing of the profession, is neglected and forgotten.

It came to the notice of one of the large associations of physicians and surgeons recently in the City of New York, that there were many persons practising medicine

who had no legal right to do so. The management of that association at once took vigorous and disagreeable steps to ascertain who these offenders were. Men were employed to take a list of all the signs of physicians displayed throughout the city; and by searching the records of licensed practitioners this abuse was stopped; the violators of the law were punished and suppressed.

Last October, the Bar Association of New York protested against the nomination of a certain man to be a judge of the Court of Appeals. The result of the protest is a matter of political history. All the time, we are reading of actions taken by various business associations against abuses. We have yet to read of any action of any kind ever having been taken by any association of stenographers, against anything, however grievous the abuse may have been.

There is in the code of professional ethics in most professions a recognition of such a thing an *unprofessional conduct*. After 25 years spent in the business of shorthand, I am forced to the belief that there is no code of ethics accepted as such in our business, and that the term "unprofessional conduct" conveys no suggestion whatever to shorthand writers as a class. There are very many men who have a code; and who are never guilty of unprofessional conduct. And they are the salvation of the guild. But there seem to be no rules of conduct which are generally accepted as controlling, by any large number of shorthand writers. That there may be no mistake as to my meaning, let me illustrate:—No reputable physician will interfere with or assume the treatment of a patient, who is the patient of another physician, except he be "called in consultation" by the other physician; or except the other physician abandons the case. Professional courtesy will not permit it; it seems quite "irrelevant" what the patient may desire; but it would be "unprofessional conduct" in the highest degree for one physician to attend, or in any way interfere with the treatment of a patient of another physician. But with us there apparently are no rules of conduct, a violation of which by common consent would be deemed "unprofessional" by all. For instance: in the opinion of some men it would be unprofessional in an eminent degree, for one stenographer to try to supplant another stenographer in a case; either by "cutting rates" or by any other means; but in the opinion of others, this would be only "commendable business enterprise," "energetic business activity," or "push." With Americans, there is but

one god; Gold is his name, and "Hustle" is his prophet. If many Americans spoke French, they would say that his motto was "*J'y parviens*." But being only Americans, they say, "I git ther jest the same." It is this unscrupulous "getting their" *which constitutes unprofessional conduct*. And if this Association, nineteen years ago, had formulated a brief code of ethics, there might not exist to-day that peculiar confusion of ideas which seem to prevail with a good many men who write shorthand very well, as to what is and what is not professional conduct. The youngest stenographer in the City of New York has no doubt whatever as to what the regular rates for stenographic work should be; but a good many of the oldest stenographers seem to have foundered in a fog of doubt as to what their regular dealings with their fellows should be.

For the purposes of this paper, I do not propose that there shall be any mistake as to what I mean by unprofessional; nor as to what I consider unprofessional. I will cite two or three instances which came under my personal observation and experience.

I was telephoned one morning by a lawyer whose cases I had taken for years, to attend at the office of a well known lawyer, as there was to be a hearing in an important matter. I did not know what it was, or whom it was before. I found when I arrived that there was a stenographer who had desk room there, who believed, in the quaint phraseology of Wall Street, that he "had the call" on all business in that office; hence we will designate him as Mr. Call. All the parties were present except the counsel opposed to my employer, (whose client, by the way, had to pay the fees in any event). Mr. Call came into the room, and looked grim and glum; but he said nothing and went back into the outer office. Shortly afterwards, the opposing counsel entered the outer office. Mr. Call intercepted him and represented (as I was afterwards informed) that I was an interloper; that the case "*belonged*" to him; and that I was "hand and glove" (whatever that may mean), with the counsel who employed me. Upon the question of whether a stenographer was to be employed, this opposing counsel said yes; but he would not consent to my appointment; that he wanted the Referee to appoint the stenographer in his own office. All the counsel present, including the Referee, stated in open Court that I was entirely satisfactory; but the counsel was obdurate; and I withdrew, to avoid further words. As I passed out of the office I met Mr. Call,

who came in; he said to me in a triumph as he went by, "You had no business to tackle me on my own dung hill."

I thought so too; and *I left him there.*

That is a sample of what I mean by unprofessional conduct. Yet, this Mr. Call was a perfectly competent and well known stenographer; who had business enough without resorting to such methods.

A prominent lawyer told me some months ago that he had just received a written proposition from a stenographer that if he (the lawyer) would give him (the stenographer) his references, he would *divide his fees with the Referee*. The lawyer, an eminently dignified, cultured and high toned gentleman, was astounded; he wanted to know whether I had ever heard of such a thing before. I said that I had been told that such propositions had been made, but that I knew of no reputable stenographer whom I believed guilty of such practice. He was in doubt as to what course to pursue. But he finally concluded to drop it where it was and to pay no attention to the proposition, either in rebuke or otherwise.

That is another example of what I call unprofessional conduct—unprofessional on the part of the stenographer, and unprofessional on the part of the lawyer, if he entertains the proposition.

I do not care to touch upon the feature of cutting rates; although that is the one which seems to many the most offensive and the most *unprofitable*, if not the most unprofessional. The present rates for first class stenographic work have been for many years unchanged. Since 1878, when typewriting machines began to come into general use, 25 cents a folio for one copy and 5 cents a folio for each additional copy, was settled upon as a fair compensation. And the fact that those are now the prevailing and well known and well established rates, among reputable stenographers, is very conclusive evidence that they are fair and reasonable. But there are those who occasionally or habitually cut rates to get business. All I care to say about that practice is this: The stenographer who cuts rates to get cases, seems to me to place himself in one of the following positions:—

(1.) He thinks the prevailing rates too high, and that the work is not worth the price. If that is the position he takes, then if he ever does do any work at full rates, he is cheating the man who thus pays him more than he himself admits the work to be worth; or,

(2.) He thinks that his own work not being first-class, is not worth as much as that of first class stenographers, who will not work for less than the regular rates; in which case he is guilty of lying if he ever represents to anybody that he can do the work as well as it can be done by any one else; or,

(3.) He thinks, in substance, "The rates are *not* too high; the work is worth the rates; I am just as competent as any man; but these other fellows get the work, and I get left; and I must either cut rates or starve."

This last mental attitude involves a confession of weakness so startling that few will admit it. The fact is that the whole rate-cutting matter is the result of competition and overcrowding; it is not incident alone to shorthand; but it characterizes almost every vocation and business in this country. It cannot be regulated nor prevented. But so far as our own vocation is concerned, it is a bad business expedient. I am reminded of some lines from Virgil which apply to the case, with slight changes:

"Facilis descensus averno; sed revocare gradum, superasque evadere ad auras, Hoc opus, hic labor est."\*

It is very easy to make the prices of such labor as we do, *lower*; but to retrace our steps, and get back to the upper air of regular rates, "that is the task; that is the labor." Once down, down always. The man who will do work for half rates, will soon be unable to get any more than half. While I will neither work for less than regular rates myself, nor exchange with other stenographers whom I suspect of doing so, I recognize the great fact that a man has a right to sell his work for what he chooses; and I also recognize the fact that in a majority of cases, those who cut rates get *no less*, to say the least, than their work deserves.

I should deem it unprofessional when sent to take a case for another stenographer, if I were to take advantage of that employment by seeking to undermine him in any way, or get the business of that client away from him. My professional duty is very plain: I should attend; state that I represented Mr. Bishop, let us say; take the proceedings; withdraw and furnish Mr. Bishop with the transcript. But I should carefully refrain from obtruding either myself or my business upon Mr. Bishop's clients. For the purposes of that case I am simply Mr. Bishop's

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\*"Easy the descent to Hades; but to retrace one's steps, and regain the upper air, this the task, this the labor is."

*alter ego*; his double; his interests are the ones to be represented; my interests are not to be promoted or considered.

I should deem it unprofessional for me to go to those whom I know to be clients or employers of some other stenographer, and try to induce them to give me their business in preference to that other, by any representations whatever. This I am aware is considered by many stenographers as an example of "commendable business enterprise." But the rule of professional conduct is a very simple one;—so simple that "the wayfaring man though a fool, need not err therein;" and it is all embraced in the words uttered almost 1,900 years ago: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

That is all there is of it. Do nothing, say nothing, in your business dealings, which, if the positions were reversed, you would not like to have done or said by others.

Now, I have said all this to indicate what, to my mind, is the broad field of labor for stenographic associations. There are two kinds of work which they can do; one aggressive, relentless, and ceaseless; calling on the press and all citizens to help; this can be applied to abuses such as I have mentioned, as in the matter of scandalous appointments; and the other is the more quiet, but none the less ceaseless and unrelenting, cultivation of a code of *high professional ethics*.

The profession can never be better than the individuals who compose it. If we are in the mass, *bogs*, (I regret to use the word) the prevailing professional instincts will be swinish; if we are in the mass, self-respecting, honest, fair-minded and considerate, then the prevailing characteristics of the profession will be such as to command respect.

Therefore it is within the scope and power of these various associations whose members claim to have the welfare of the profession so much at heart; who are *so keenly alive* to the necessity of "dignifying and elevating" the profession and "advancing its interests," that they officially declare their solicitude in their constitutions—to set about doing it right at their own very doors and in their own very individual persons by precept and example. The members must themselves do this, in their individual capacities. They must adopt a code of conduct for themselves, and having adopted it, they must live up to it. And they must discountenance, discourage and condemn



any departure from it on the part of their associates, members or non-members, whenever such departure shall become known to them.

To illustrate exactly what I mean, I will suppose that a person is admitted to be disreputable; that his morals are corrupt; that he is an habitual drunkard, a persistent liar, or a convicted thief. The association of reputable persons who should discover such a person among their members, would at once take such steps as they might be advised in the premises, to abate the evil of his membership. They probably would expel him; and the individual members would "cut" him—"send him to coventry," as the phrase is, or do such other thing or things as might be deemed proper, in proportion as his undesirableness was offensive.

In proportion as a stenographer conducts himself in an offensive manner, professionally, in that proportion could, and in my opinion, should stenographic associations take cognizance of, and repudiate the conduct, and if necessary repudiate the individual. Members of other professions fall into disrepute, and suffer the consequences of such fall, when they are guilty of words or acts which offend the sense of their fellow craftsmen. Associations of those in the same vocation, take vigorous, and at times very disagreeable (to the offender) action in reference to unprofessional conduct tending to bring the whole profession into disrepute. The newspapers are too full of instances of this kind to need any more extended allusion to them.

I am in no wise opposed to associations: I am not contending that they should cease to exist or cease to be formed. Such a contention would be futile, to say the least. I am simply urging upon associations now existing, and hereafter to be formed, *to do one of two things*: either proclaim their objects to be "relaxation, recreation and romance" and omit all declarations as to "advancing the cause of the profession:"—or, make this latter declaration, *live up to it*, enlarge the sphere of their work, and make their declaration *mean* something, by what they do to enforce them.

There is a certain association of ideas with certain callings; we associate strength of arm with blacksmiths; delicate manual dexterity with watch makers and jewelers. There is an odor of sanctity about the clergy; we expect, when we are told that a man is a minister of the gospel, that his conduct will be in keeping with his calling. And I think that in the vast majority—the overwhelming

majority of cases—the clergy justify the expectation. They *are* Godly, upright, good men. Occasionally the judicious are made to grieve, and the cynical to smile, at the moral downfall of some of them. But these instances are very rare as compared with the whole number of clergymen.

Now why is it Utopian to think that the association of ideas, when our profession is mentioned might be this? —“He is a stenographer; hence he is a truthful, self-respecting, industrious worker; whatever you give him to do, he will do to the very best of his ability; whatever you confide in him, he will never betray. In his conduct towards those who employ him, and his co-workers, he will be found always and invariably to be fair, just and honorable. He is a stenographer; therefore he is to be trusted.”

Whether this “association of ideas” can ever be brought about through the direct or indirect instrumentality of any “association of stenographers,” depends entirely and absolutely on the individual members of those bodies; upon the keenness of their appreciation of the truth of what I have here stated; and upon their willingness to do their part in the direction of making it prevail.—in brief, upon the adoption of a high standard of professional ethics; and a resolute living up to that standard.

Mr. Osgoodby—Mr. President, I think I agree with Col. Dickinson in everything he has said, but I am sure he has omitted some things which he ought to have said. He refers to the fact that medical associations take cognizance of illegal practitioners of medicine, and that they proceed in such a manner as to stop such illegal practice. He speaks of the action of the bar association, which prevented an obnoxious judge being elected to the Court of Appeals. I know that similar action by bar associations has brought about the impeachment of judges guilty of malfeasance in office. There is no doubt that action taken by such associations, for the purpose of reforming abuses, for the prevention of illegal practices, for the protection of the interests of their own professions, and, as far as possible, for the conservation of the interests of the public, is proper action and within the scope of their duty. To accomplish such results, is, or ought to be, among the especial objects of such associations. Our association

should be no exception to the rule. It *is* no exception to the rule. But how are we, as an association, to know the necessity for action in any particular case? We cannot act, without information upon which to base our action. We can only act when notice of a reason for action is brought before us by some one having knowledge of such reason. If a member of this association knows of matters upon which we as an association should act, and he fails to bring such matters to the attention of the association, then he, and not the association, is to be blamed because such action is not taken. Col. Dickinson is a member of the association; and surely he ought not to arraign the association for taking no action with respect to the matters mentioned by him, when he has failed in a duty which he owed to us—the duty of presenting these very matters for our action. I am sure that if he had brought to the notice of the association the fact that a man had been appointed as stenographer of the Supreme Court simply because he was a relative of the judge who appointed him—a man who was not in fact a stenographer—this association would have taken such action as would have made it very uncomfortable both for the judge and for his fortunate relative. If he had brought to our attention the fact that a policeman, who was not a stenographer, had been appointed as a court reporter as a reward for political work, this association would have taken such action as would have made it extremely uncomfortable for the policeman and for the judge who appointed him. And I think I may say that if the fact were brought to the attention of the association that one of our members had been guilty of grossly unprofessional conduct, such action would have been taken as would have made it clear to every one that we *have* a code of ethics. Indeed, Article VII. of our constitution makes especial provision for just such cases. If Col. Dickinson's paper shall have the effect of arousing in the members of the Association an appreciation of our duty and of our *power* in such cases as he has mentioned, it will have been one of the most profitable papers ever read at our meetings.

Mr. Bishop—Some member should take the initiative.

Mr. Hill—I admire Col. Dickinson; I think he is a prince among stenographers, but with his pessimistic views I am not in accord, and I came to listen to this paper rather with a prejudice against it. I believe, however, that it is a truthful paper, for Professor Heffley, as well as myself, knows the instances which he cites are not a flight of the imagination, for we heard, as probably Col. Dickinson did, for the first time, those instances related by John B. Carey at the Pratt Institute last winter. I recognized the citations, as Professor Heffley did. But I think Col. Dickinson, while he is telling the truth in all this, has a tendency toward being too pessimistic. I am an optimist, and I believe that all who have traveled so far to be present here to-day, are optimists, or they would not be here. If this work is not done, the question, as asked of Demosthenes, is: What remains to be done?—and the answer is: That which is left undone. And I think it is going along in the right way to continue as optimists, and to see to it that some of these things are done. They certainly should be done; Col. Dickinson is right in that particular; and I myself believe not only in having bicycle clubs and entertainments, but in paying attention to short-hand ethics.

Mr. Bishop—I should like to state that in the history of the New York City Stenographers' Association, that is, the first institution of that old Association which preceded by several years the New York State Association, we had a constitution which was mainly adopted by this Association. In that Association we had an article which specified the minimum rates at which work should be done, and provided a penalty to be imposed upon any infraction, when we found it to exist, of that rule. We did not retain the article a great while, because we thought it might savor of trade-unionism, and we knew the spirit of the Association pretty well and thought it unnecessary; we thought the sentiment of the Association, as condemnatory of anything of that kind, would be sufficient. Either at the time of the existence of that rule or after its abandonment,

and when we were depending upon what you might call public sentiment on the subject, a member was charged with having cut rates. The case was peculiar; and while I have over and over again refused to do work at all where a cutting of rates was involved, in this case of the old association I thought the conditions justified the stenographer. It was something he did for the office where he was and which gave him gratuitously his office rent. I thought it was only fair compensation for what I knew he was getting; but he felt the pressure of sentiment to such a degree that he resigned from the association. My impression is, that a little strong sentiment expressed, without anything more, might be pretty effectual in such cases as Col. Dickinson mentions, even if we had no written code of ethics. If it were understood that such a thing was dishonorable, and it was expressed in good round terms that that was our sentiment, I think that would have a pretty strong influence.

The President—This is not the first time, I think, that this question has been discussed before this Association. On previous occasions, some of the members have urged the objection that the moment such action is taken by the Association, the newspapers would clamor against us as being a ring formed to exclude everybody else from the practice of the art; but I am quite sure that if Col. Dickinson had presented any written charges and asked the investigation of this Association, or if he should hereafter do so, this Association would take action upon it.

Mr. Bishop—I think so. I think, if the complaint were put before the Association, it would not shirk its duty.

Mr. Hill—I think Col. Dickinson feels that it falls short of its duty.

The President—I have known Col. Dickinson for years. One object he thinks should be accomplished by this Association is, that we should have our business legalized, as dental, or even the plumbing business, is controlled by laws of this State.

Mr. Heffley—I presume, as regards these particular cases he mentions, it is too late to take action now.

The President—I do not know whether it is too late, but if it is not, I should be in favor of Col. Dickinson presenting to the Association any grievances he may have.

Mr. Heffley—The appointee may have been removed, or he may still hold the place. This occurrence took place in Brooklyn, I believe.

Mr. Osgoodby—Was it recent?

Mr. Heffley—I think sometime last winter, or about a year ago.

Mr. Osgoodby—If it was since our last meeting, I think it would not be too late to take cognizance of it.

The President—As Mr. Osgoodby says, I suppose we could not take action without the matter being presented by some individual member.

Mr. Bishop—The facts would have to be shown.

Mr. Heffley—The fact of his mentioning it in the paper—is not that bringing it to the attention of the Association? Why not appoint a committee to communicate with the Colonel, and if they get an investigation, why not let them take action in the name of the Association?

The President—I suppose such action could be taken.

Mr. Osgoodby—I see no objection to that, but I wish the Colonel had given us facts to go upon. It may be that some of the members present know of the facts sufficiently to know the man who is aimed at, but as an Association we do not know them.

The President—We do not know it officially.

Mr. Osgoodby—No, we do not know it officially, nor do I know, individually, who it is or what the facts are. But if we should appoint a committee to investigate the thing we might run counter of another thing that the Colonel does not like—the members of the Association “going on fishing excursions.”

Mr. Hill—Don't you think the Association should be aggressive upon such matters as the Colonel mentions?

Mr. Osgoodby—Yes ; but how could we act when we do not know anything about it ? There is a vague statement of what has happened ; but he does not state, even, what city or county it occurred in.

Mr. Heffley—I meant, a committee to confer with the Colonel and learn whether he is willing to back up his statement—not to do anything aside from him if he is not willing to substantiate what he has said. It seems to me that any point in his paper is open to action or consideration.

Mr. Osgoodby—If you will make such a motion, I will second it. I am in favor of showing Col. Dickinson that this Association is something besides a mere body.

Mr. Bishop—I move that a committee, to consist of Col. Dickinson, Mr. Carey, and Mr. Heffley be appointed to investigate the matters understood to have occurred in Brooklyn, referred to Col. Dickinson's paper; said committee, if on investigation it shall ascertain that the facts warrant such action, to report to the executive committee; the executive committee and said committee of three to have power, jointly, to enter a protest with the proper authorities, if the same shall be ascertainable, alone, or to call on the officers of the Association to act jointly with them in the name of the Association and bring such matter before such proper authorities.

Mr. Osgoodby seconded the motion. Carried.

Mr. Heffley—What is to be said about asking the legislature to pass such a bill as Col. Dickinson suggests ?

Mr. Bishop—That is a serious question. It has been discussed, and there has been considerable objection. A bill, if drawn at all, would have to be so carefully, so comprehensively drawn, as not to go too far but to go just far enough, and I should say we had better leave that subject to another time.

Mr. Heffley—Why would it not be well to introduce the subject now, and have a committee appointed to report at the next meeting.

Mr. Osgoodby—If thought desirable, we could have a committee appointed to draft a bill to present to the legislature. I never saw anything of the kind, yet, that seemed to me feasible. If we attempt any such thing, it ought to be done with a good deal of careful consideration; and even if it were to take two or three years to formulate it, it would be better than to act hastily.

Mr. King—Mr. President, I move that a committee of three be appointed, to consist of Mr. Osgoodby, Mr. Bishop and Rodgers, to discuss the subject of presenting a bill to the legislature legalizing court stenographers.

Mr. Bishop—I would not be a proper member of that committee because I have so much doubt as to the practicability of the suggestion.

Mr. Hill—Don't you believe a great many stenographers are appointed to courts, who are incompetent?

Mr. Bishop—Yes; but what I mean is: I do not see the feasibility of it. I do not see how it can be fixed. If we should go to the legislature and ask them to appoint us the censors, and to say that nobody but those who has membership here should be appointed, or some one whom we have tested, the legislature would say at once: "This is a close corporation, and if a person goes to them to be examined, of course they will reject him."

Mr. Rose—I think Mr. Lansing's plan was to have one of the official stenographers appointed by the General Terms at which persons are examined for admission to the bar, and to have the examination made at that time.

Mr. Osgoodby—Made by the persons who make examinations of applicants for admission to the bar?

Mr. Rose—Yes, with some one of the official stenographers.

Mr. Osgoodby—That might possibly by a feasible plan.

Mr. Rose—Mr. Lansing's idea was to allow persons to make application at any General Term, and to be examined upon giving notice a certain number of days before the commencement of that term.



Mr. Hill—By the bar committee with one stenographer. Would it not be feasible to have it at any term of the Court ?

Mr. Osgoodby—I do not think the legislature would adopt such a plan, but possibly they might be induced to adopt the other. I should say there ought to be at least two official stenographers upon the committee.

Mr. Hill—Two or three; at least two, in conjunction with the others. How many are there of the bar examining committee ?

Mr. Osgoodby—Three.

Mr. Hill—In New Jersey, the examiners of the bar are a state body.

Mr. Osgoodby—In this state, each judicial district has always had its own examiners.

Mr. Hill—Then you would have to provide that the examiners should be of different political parties.

Mr. Osgoodby—Here is another suggestion : That it might be so framed that the applicants could be examined by the examining committee and one or more of the official stenographers of a district adjoining that in which the application is made.

Mr. Rose—This subject has been up before, and it has been suggested that it is the judge, who is interested in the appointment of the stenographer. The judges in the district, collectively, have the appointment of the stenographers, and if one judge should signify his wish to have a certain stenographer appointed, the other judges would naturally join with him, so the particular judge is the one who determines who shall report for him. All these questions have been raised. I would suggest, as disposing of this question, that we invite Col. Dickinson to attend our next year's meeting, prepared to present some plan for proposed legislation, and to argue the matter himself, here.

Mrs. White—I would like to ask just one question : In case this were done, it would only apply to court stenographers—those reporting in court ; it would make

no difference with the incompetents who are reporting references, and so on. It seems to me it should go so far as a reference.

Mr. Hill—Col. Dickerson's plan applies to that as well.

Mr. Bishop—He does not limit it to official stenographers.

Mr. Osgoodby—I am inclined to think it would be better to refer this matter to Col. Dickinson as a committee, by himself,—or, it is well enough to associate two men with him who live in or near New York ; it is better than appoint me, as proposed, living at one end of the state, and the other members at the other.

Mr. Hill—Col. Dickinson has already drafted a paper.

Mr. Rose—He should present it in shape.

Mr. Osgoodby—The bill should be drawn, in the first place, so as to be constitutional ; in the second place, so as to avoid any reasonable objection ; and in the third place, in such terms as to accomplish the object sought by it. It is a very delicate matter.

Mr. Bishop—It requires a lawyer, or one accustomed to drafting such matters.

Mr. Hill—From personal experience I know this : In December, 1892, I passed an easy examination in shorthand and typewriting, of the New York City Civil Service Board, at Cooper Union, with an average of over 99. As the result of this, in April, 1893, I was offered the position of stenographer to Mayor Gilroy, the party occupying said position having resigned to take a court. The position of stenographer to Mayor Gilroy is a civil service position, and the salary affixed to it is \$1200.00 per year. The party who resigned was getting \$2,000, so I was informed by Mr. Willis Holley, the Mayor's chief clerk. I was told that I could resign and get a court also, if matters went right. I had been brought up a strong democrat and was supposed to be such then, but *really* my mind had been undergoing a change for some time. However, I was regarded as a democrat then—I vote the straight republican ticket now. I can say, without

boasting, that I was highly recommended to the position. I was asked to go and have a consultation with the Mayor, and was given 24 hours to decide whether I would take the position or not. It was understood that I was a good democrat, and although it was a civil service position, it was made plain that being a good democrat was an inducement ; and it was made very plain to me, also, that, if I would take up my residence in New York, and take an interest in politics, I would be eligible to promotion. If I had taken this \$2,000 position, I assumed that \$500 of this salary would have gone into the campaign fund ; my salary would probably have been cut down to less than I was getting in my present position. I would have had the name of getting \$2,000, but part of it would have been taken away.

Mr. King—I will change the motion which I made, and move that the secretary be asked to request Col. Dickinson to formulate a plan for legislation on the subject of law stenographers, and to present the same at the next meeting.

Mr. Heffley seconded the motion. Carried.

The President—If we have no further papers to be read, we have reports of other committees.

Mr. Osgoodby presented the following report :

The Committee appointed to consider the financial condition of the Association, respectfully report the following recommendations :

1. That the dues from active members for the present year be fixed at five dollars.
2. That each honorary member be furnished with one copy of the printed proceedings.
3. That each active member, not in arrears of dues, be furnished two copies of such proceedings.
4. That the price of extra copies, beyond those above provided for, be fixed at twenty-five cents each.

Mr. Bishop—Heretofore, our executive committee has been appointed from all over the state, and could not very well get together. Once or twice, we have had meetings in New York, and got together very well, but it occurred

to me whether it would not be desirable, if there is to be an executive committee to do considerable work, to have one appointed nearly in the same neighborhood.

The President—It would be, I should think, very desirable ; still the interests of the state at large might be better subserved by members from different parts of the state.

Mr. Osgoodby—I don't know that I understand Mr. Bishop, but if you appoint a sufficient number to form a quorum from one part of the state, you might get written suggestions from the others.

Mr. Hill—I would vote against a report to have all members of the committee from one section of the state—a sufficient number to form a quorum might be.

Mr. Heffley—I do not know that I really understand what the duties of the executive committee are.

Mr. Osgoodby—I believe their powers used to be to do anything the Association might do, in an emergency.

Mr. Bishop—I want to move an amendment to the constitution before we adjourn. Shall I make it now ? It cannot come up until next year.

The President—Perhaps now is as good a time as any.

Mr. Bishop—I move that the constitution of the Association be amended by the inclusion of an article in substance this :

“ The executive committee of the Association, together with one member of the examining committee, (such member of the examining committee to be from the district of which the candidate for membership shall be a resident), shall be empowered, *ad interim*, to consider the application of and admit new members to the Association, with the same force and effect as though they had been elected by the Association in annual meeting, the member so elected to pay annual dues for the year then current.

Mr. Bishop—I move that we adopt the report of the committee to consider the financial condition of the Association. Carried.

Mr. Bishop—I move, Mr. President, that Mr. Osgoodby be appointed the committee on printing. Carried.

It was moved and carried that the Association adjourn to Friday morning at nine o'clock, a. m.

## SECOND DAY.

Meeting called to order by President Rose, at 9:30 a. m.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

#### *To the President:*

Your committee appointed for the consideration and recommendation of a suitable place for the meeting of the next annual session of this Association, begs to recommend the city of New York, at the St. Denis Hotel, 11th Street and Broadway, or in the immediate vicinity, place to be selected by the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

N. P. HEFFLEY,  
K. C. HILL,  
SARAH A. MOORE.

Upon motion the report was received and adopted.

The committee on nominations of officers, reported as follows :

For President, Charles F. King, Glens Falls.

For Vice-President, N. P. Heffley, Brooklyn.

For Secretary-Treasurer, Kendrick C. Hill, New York.

For Librarian, Miss M. Jeannette Ballantyne, Rochester.

For Executive Committee :

George R. Bishop, New York.

Theodore C. Rose, Elmira.

W. W. Osgoodby, Rochester.

S. C. Rodgers, Troy.

P. P. McLaughlin, New York.

The report was received and adopted.

Mrs. White moved that the secretary cast one ballot for the election of these nominees. Carried.

The secretary cast the ballot, unanimously electing such officers.

The President—Ladies and Gentlemen : Before resigning my position to my successor, I wish to thank you for your kind indulgence, and I will now appoint Mrs. White and Mr. Gokey to conduct Mr. King to the chair.

Mr. King—Ladies and Gentlemen : I am afraid it is a mistake to change presidents. I very much hoped, and expected, from something I heard one of the gentlemen on the committee say, that President Rose would probably be continued in office. We certainly could not have found a better president, so far as the duties of the office are concerned. I do not wish to shirk any duty that comes upon me as a member, and will gladly do anything that comes in the province of the president to do. I await your pleasure.

Mr. Bishop offered the following resolution :

Resolved : That the members of this Association have learned, with deep regret, of the death of Andrew J. Graham, for years one of our honorary members, and known throughout the whole country as a devoted and intelligent laborer in the field of shorthand, first as a practitioner, later as the author of many volumes on the subject, and the editor and publisher of a well-known journal devoted to the elucidation and the interests of the particular adaptation of modern phonography that bears his name.

Resolved : That we appreciate not only his achievements as an accomplished practical reporter while he was active in such work, and his labors as an author devoting much thought to the improvement of phonography, but that wide general culture which was one of his most distinguishing characteristics, his broad views of life and affairs, his generous and manly impulses, and his noble character.

Resolved : That we, as an Association, tender to his family our condolence, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to them.

Mr. Osgoodby seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

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**ANDREW J. GRAHAM.**

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By GEO. R. BISHOP.

Since the last meeting of our Association, one of the oldest of our honorary members, whose name we have continuously kept on our list since it was first placed there, has departed this life. He had not been engaged in active reportorial work for many years, though when I first made his acquaintance about 30 years ago, he had

not withdrawn from the field. I remember to have seen him, on several occasions, taking notes at the great war meetings that were so common during the first four years of my residence in New York City, and once or twice also when Wendell Phillips delivered one of his great addresses—those addresses always extemporaneous, and necessary to be reported in shorthand if they were preserved at all. When I first knew Mr. Graham he had but recently completed one of the largest reporting contracts he ever had, the case, as I remember it, of the Goodyear patents; and I remember having, on a number of occasions, examined, with interest, his bound volume of the notes he had taken in that case—elegant specimens of the art, so far as appearances went, and very compactly written—constituting a pretty near approach to what we might fitly call the *Second Reader* style of phonography. As, when I first knew him, I had made pretty good progress in the mastery of his text-books, and was what might be called a Graham writer, I apparently enjoyed his confidence to a considerable degree—something naturally quite gratifying to a young fellow of twenty or twenty one, who intended to make shorthand his profession; who had at that time some ambition—never, I am glad to say, to be gratified—to be connected with one of the great New York City dailies as a regular attache, doing shorthand work. When I first knew Mr. Graham he was mainly, however, engaged in the promulgation of his phonographic ideas through the dissemination of his text-books; a matter which, with the production of occasionally a new book and the publishing of a periodical devoted to his art, was designed soon to engross his whole attention, so far as his life business was concerned. He removed to Orange, N. J., many years ago. His visits to New York then became constantly less frequent, especially after his health became impaired, so that with the exception of once, when 3 or 4 years ago, I visited, one evening, the town where he resided, and on which occasion I unexpectedly met him, I had hardly seen him for a decade. When I saw him on this occasion, he recognized me so far off that I concluded his eyesight was yet keen and his mind and memory still alert.

When in the latter half of 1863 I began to do legal reporting, and quickly made the acquaintance of the more active legal stenographers of the city, I became aware that the best known phonographers whom I met were even then divided into two adverse, if not hostile, bands—those who thought a close following of Mr. Grahams' ideas

and various abbreviatory devices would enable one who otherwise could have had no reasonable hope of becoming a rapid writer, to become an expert, and those who, on the other hand, asserted that the use of such devices was inconsistent with that legibility, that readiness in reading, which were necessary for one who was to attain the highest rank in the fraternity of shorthand writers. As I had spent much time in making myself familiar with those very devices, and classed myself as a Graham writer, I was naturally inclined to take sides with the former class, and how far soever I may have since wandered from the fold, and attempted, through means that I have set forth in *Exact Phonography*, to strengthen some of the obviously weak places in the phonographic system, I still recognize, especially when I discern how largely writers of text-books of the older phonography have borrowed from Mr. Graham, that, in the old phonography, Mr. Graham's books were epoch-making works—many of his principles and devices extremely useful, as presenting, without any tendency to impair legibility, many forms of greater brevity than those that had been previously employed for the same words and particles. As I have, since the holding of the meeting of which this pamphlet is the record, discussed, at considerable length, elsewhere, and am still, at the time of printing, engaged in discussing, what I regarded, and still regard, as very serious borrowings, by authors of another so-called "system," of devices and principles from Mr. Graham, I shall take the liberty of omitting from this paper, especially as it is desirable to make it brief, any extended reference to the obligations of other phonographic authors, including Isaac Pitman, to Mr. Graham, for principles of abbreviation which they seem to have adopted from him. Should it be contended that in some cases he found hints for principles he formulated and applied broadly, in isolated devices of an earlier note, I should not contend, probably, but that in some instances this may have been so ; but in any view of the matter, such a fixing and formulating of principles, whencesoever derived, or wherever hints leading his suggestive mind to do this may have been found, there was great merit in this ; not only because the establishment of a general principle under which numerous examples can be brought, simplifies matters and aids the learner, but because it helps to eliminate from the science something of its haphazard, arbitrary character—in short, helps to place it on a higher plane as a science. Should it also be contended that some of the suggestions he made—some



of those, in fact, that have been most profusely borrowed by others—were hazardous, that there was danger of legibility in using some of them, I might not seriously controvert that contention, for I am willing to concede that for every practical shorthand writer, the question will have to be met, as to many suggested forms, whether he can safely employ them or not. But I should strenuously contend, on the other hand, that some of Mr. Graham's rules of omission—as, *e. g.*, of K stroke in such words as *explain, explanatory, explanation*—are very important, and readily adaptable, in any system or variety of shorthand having what is generally understood to be a Pitman basis. If it were claimed that on the subject of phonography Mr. Graham was opinionated, or unduly tenacious of his ideas as to the abrobute superiority of all his own innovations, I should probably admit that that was so to a degree, especially as I once suggested to him the use of H tick for *him* as well as *he*, a device I then and have ever since very advantageously used to avoid a dangerous ambiguity, and he rejected the suggestion; but an extreme position on that side was probably on the whole more in the interest of students of shorthand than would have been the taking of a vacillating one, admitting of frequent changes, as has been the case with Mr. Isaac Pitman. While I think he was wrong in this instance, I do not criticize his general attitude on the subject of continual modifications. I never in my life had a serious personal disagreement with him; and though in time I myself introduced modifications in my writing that took me out of the category of Graham writers, he requested of me, after I had done that, notes of mine to be reproduced in the *Students' Journal*, and which he did reproduce—a fact which would relieve him, I think, of any reproach of narrowness or prejudice. And further, it seemed to me that, on the whole, he preserved a remarkable equanimity in the face of the fact that others were announcing text-books that purported to be expositions of "Graham's Phonography," embodying his innovations, and advertised as being superior, as instruction books, to his own text-books.

I condense a paper that was planned on a more elaborate scale, into these brief observations: merely adding of Mr. Graham, that as a man I always found him fair-minded, obliging, and of generous sentiments; that he has read widely, and entertained large views of many matters wholly dissociated from his special art; that I never heard it hinted but that he was highly honorable in

all his business dealings, and I believe he was so ; that he was a man not merely of an alert, suggestive, broad intellect, but of high and pure character—an ornament to the society of which he formed a part.

Mr. Osgoodby moved that the action taken yesterday, as to dues and copies of proceedings to be furnished, be reconsidered. Carried.

Mr. Hill moved that the report be amended by substituting "eight" for "two", as follows :

3. "That each active member, not in arrears of dues, be furnished *eight* copies of such proceedings."

The report as amended, was adopted.

Mr. Rose offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the proprietors of the West Point Hotel for the kindness and attention given us during the present meeting. Adopted.

Mr. Bishop moved that the secretary be authorized to correspond with the secretaries of the various state associations (the arrangement now having been made with the New England Association) on the subject of an exchange of proceedings ; that, with the consent and concurrence of those associations, this Association do exchange in the manner suggested ; and that a sufficient number of copies of proceedings be printed to admit of doing so, so far as such arrangements can be made. Carried.

Mr. Rose—I move that the first dues collected of the present year, be devoted to the payment of our indebtedness ; that thirty dollars be devoted to the payment of the secretary for services rendered ; and that the balance, so far as necessary, be devoted to the publication of our proceedings for the present year. Carried.

Mr. Heffley offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That this Association has heard, with regret, of the death of Mr. D. L. Scott-Browne, whose energetic services in the conducting of a phonographic journal, which has contained many valuable things, this Association takes pleasure in recognizing. Adopted.

Mr. Heffley moved that the President appoint a committee of three as topic committee, to suggest ten subjects for papers to be read at the next meeting. Carried.

President King appointed as such committee : Mr. Heffley, Mr. Gokey and Mrs. White.

The Topic Committee submitted the following report :

*To the President :*

Your Committee appointed for the selection of subjects upon which papers may be prepared and read at our next annual meeting, begs to suggest the following, with the understanding that any other topic may be selected by parties desiring to contribute papers.

Court Reporting.

The Coming Stenographer.

Reporting Recollections.

Teaching of Shorthand.

History of Modern Shorthand.

Shorthand for Business Purposes.

Business Training and Shorthand.

Licensing Stenographers for all Legal Work.

The Advisability of Reporters having a Degree.

Reciprocal Relations of an "Official" to an "Amanuensis."

N. Y. Constitutional Changes Affecting Official Stenographers.

The Advisability of the Various State Associations meeting together once in Four or Five Years.

Respectfully submitted.

N. P. HEFFLEY,

CHARLES F. GOKEY,

CLARA A. WHITE.

Mr. Bishop moved that the Association adjourn to meet on the fourth Thursday in August, 1895. Carried.

### RETROSPECT.

*A brief history of the N. Y. S. Stenographers' Association from 1876 to 1886 inclusive, by M. JEANETTE BALLANTYNE, Rochester, N. Y.*

"Backward, turn backward,—O, Time, in your flight."

On the 18th day of August, 1876, a few of the leading stenographers of New York State met by appointment in the City of Syracuse, to consider the question which had been under discussion for several years previous

thereto, of forming a State organization for the furtherance of the interests of the profession, and also for the maintenance of a proper standard of competency. The deliberations of the law stenographers in council on that memorable occasion resulted in the formation of the New York State Law Stenographers' Association. The organizers were : W. W. Osgoodby, of Rochester ; S. C. Rodgers, of Troy ; W. O. Wyckoff, then of Ithaca ; T. C. Rose, then of Ithaca ; the late Worden E. Payne, of Albany ; C. G. Tinsley, then of Syracuse ; F. J. Morgan, of Syracuse ; and A. L. Woodward, then of Syracuse. S. C. Rodgers was chosen Chairman of the meeting and C. G. Tinsley acted as Secretary. Two committees were appointed, one on the election of officers, the other on drafting the constitution and by-laws. The reports of both committees were accepted, and a list of names of Law Reporters, who were residents of the State, but not present at the meeting, was handed the Secretary (the resolution first having been passed) that he should notify each person composing the list, and earnestly request him to become a member of the Association. Nine of the persons thus notified, responded in the affirmative. The Association was thus organized, with William W. Osgoodby as President, W. O. Wyckoff Vice-President, and C. G. Tinsley Secretary and Treasurer.

With an active membership of seventeen gentlemen, the second annual meeting of the Association was convened at Ithaca, on the 15th and 16th of August, 1877, at the office of W. O. Wyckoff. The President, Vice-President and Secretary and Treasurer chosen at the organization of the Association were re-elected to act for the ensuing year, and the number of the members of the Executive Committee was changed from five to three. Two gentlemen and one lady (the late Mrs. J. R. Palmer, of Utica), were admitted to active membership, a long list of honorary members were elected, and seven applications for active membership were received, all of whom were referred to the Examining Committee. Several amendments of the constitution and by-laws were proposed and adopted, and a new edition of the same ordered printed. Rochester was selected as the place of the next annual meeting. The members accepted an invitation to an excursion on the Steam Yacht, "Undine," which had been placed at their disposal, and was thoroughly enjoyed, no doubt, by all the participants. Thus ended the second annual meeting of the New York State Law Stenographers' Association.

The third annual meeting of the New York State Law Stenographers was held at Rochester on the 21st and 22d of August, 1878, in the office of Osgoodby & Duffield, with twelve of the twenty active members in attendance, together with several of the honorary members.

On motion, the rule for the admission of members was suspended and eleven gentlemen were admitted to active membership, and three to honorary membership, and the following papers were read and discussed :

The Phonograph, by W. W. Osgoodby.

"Court Reporting," by P. Deming, read by the Secretary.

Laws Affecting Stenographers in N. Y. State ; also "Duplication of Copy," S. C. Rodgers.

Legislative Reporting by W. C. Payne.

System in Office Work, by W. O. Wyckoff.

On the evening of the 21st, an invitation was extended by Messrs. Osgoodby & Duffield to participate in the festivities of a banquet at the Rochester Club House. A sumptuous collation had been prepared, and the table was tastefully decorated with flowers. The record shows that the after dinner speeches on this happy occasion, were all in the humorous vein and wonderfully entertaining. With the spicy remarks of E. F. Underhill, something good from George R. Bishop, the shorthand witticisms of W. W. Osgoodby, and the mirthful speech by the late Hon. James L. Angle and other gentlemen present, little is left for the imagination to supply.

On the second day of the meeting, the Constitution was amended and the original number of five members on the Executive Committee was restored. There was a Topic Committee appointed and nine of the active members of the Association were assigned papers to read at the next annual meeting, to be held at Saratoga.

P. Deming of Albany was elected President, D. C. McEwen of Brooklyn, Vice-President, and W. F. Duffield of Rochester, Secretary and Treasurer. The Constitution and by-laws were amended.

The fourth annual meeting of the Association convened at the Town Hall at Saratoga, on the 20th and 21st of August, 1879. The meeting was called to order by P. Deming, the President, and in the absence of W. F. Duffield, Mr. T. C. Rose acted as Secretary. Thirteen active members were present, three honorary members, besides several visitors.

Certain amendments to the Constitution and by-laws were referred to a committee.

On motion the following order of business was adopted :

First—Reading of minutes of last meeting.

Second—Nominations for membership.

Third—Report of Executive Committee.

Fourth—Report of Treasurer.

Fifth—Report of committee on admissions to membership.

Sixth—Election of members.

Seventh—Election of officers.

Eighth—Reports of other committees.

Ninth—Reading of papers.

Tenth—Miscellaneous business.

On motion the rule for the admission of members was suspended, and four gentlemen and one lady (M. Jeanette Ballantyne, of Rochester), were admitted to active membership. The chairman of the Executive Committee being absent, Mr. Rodgers reported orally. The Treasurer's report showed a small balance on hand. The committee on nominations reported for President, S. C. Rodgers, Vice-President, W. H. Slocum, Secretary and Treasurer, T. C. Rose.

The following papers were read and discussed.

Ethics of the Profession, by D. C. McEwen.

"Learning Shorthand," by C. G. Tinsley.

The Typewriter, by W. H. Slocum.

Laws and Reporters of the United States and Territories ; and also "Our Association," by request, by S. C. Rodgers.

The Modern Art-Science, a voluntary paper by H. C. Demming of Harrisburg, Pa.

On the evening of the first day of the meeting, the Albany and Troy members tendered a banquet to the Association, which the printed report shows, was very elaborate, gotten up with exquisite taste and advanced culinary skill. The writer did not join in the festivities, but one of the gentlemen who was present, was kind enough to give her a very satisfactory description of it afterwards.

The fifth annual meeting of the Association was convened at the office of C. G. Tinsley of Syracuse, on the 19th day of August, 1880. The meeting was opened by a short address by President S. C. Rodgers, which was well received. In response to the calling of the roll by the Secretary and Treasurer, there were fifteen active and

two honorary members present and ten visitors. Thirty-three letters of regret, some of which were very interesting, were read from various members and invited guests, signifying their inability to be present at the meeting. The Treasurer's report showed a deficit of \$20.74. On motion, the rule relating to the admissions of members was suspended and five active members were declared elected. Also, ten honorary members. The committee on nominations made the following report :

President—C. G. Tinsley, Syracuse.

Vice-President—Worden E. Payne, Albany.

Secretary and Treasurer—George H. Thornton, Buffalo.

Executive Committee—W. W. Osgoodby, Rochester, Worden E. Payne, Albany, S. C. Rodgers, Troy, W. O. Wyckoff, Ithaca, H. C. Tanner, Oswego, C. G. Tinsley, (ex-officio), Syracuse.

The following papers were presented, read and discussed :

"The Witness-box and its Occupants," A. L. Woodward, Syracuse.

"Rest and Recreation," W. O. Wyckoff, Ithaca.

"Blunders," F. J. Morgan, Syracuse.

"Daily Copy," C. G. Tinsley, Syracuse.

"The Relation of Stenographers to the Bench, Bar and Press." Worden E. Payne, Albany.

"The Utility and Economy of Shorthand in Court," William H. Slocum, Buffalo.

"The Benefit of General Reading to a Stenographer," George H. Thornton, Buffalo.

"Books of Reference," S. C. Rodgers, Troy.

"Practical Stenography," H. C. Demming, Harrisburg, Pa.

"Laws and Reporters of the United States," S. C. Rodgers, Troy.

"An Independent System of Shorthand," illustrated on the blackboard," by Mr. Glanville of Venice, N. Y.

Each and every paper was thoroughly discussed by the different members and visitors present, in a practical, humorous and interesting manner. For the benefit of some of those who have since that time become members of the Association, I quote the following books of reference which were suggested by the members after the discussion of Mr. Rodgers' paper.

"Dunglison's Medical Lexicon," W. W. Osgoodby.

"Stormonth's Dictionary," and "Quackenbos' Rhetoric," on punctuation, G. R. Bishop.

"Wilson" on Punctuation, W. W. Osgoodby.

Abbott's "Judge and Jury," T. C. Rose.

"Crabb's Synonyms," E. D. York.

Mr. Osgoodby thought the latter a valuable help in condensing.

"Encyclopædia." published by the American Book Exchange, W. W. Osgoodby.

The President appointed the following Committee on Topics—Messrs. Griffith, Gage, Lammert and Tinsley.

The following subjects were assigned to the members whose names appear below, for them to prepare papers upon to be read at the next meeting of the Association.

Reporting in Chautauqua—George H. Thornton.

Pen Paralysis—William H. Slocum.

The Stenographic Tramp—F. J. Morgan.

Court Scenes and Incidents—William W. Osgoodby.

The Duties of Members towards the Association—C.

B. Post.

Canoeing, as a Means of Rest and Recreation—C. F. Earle.

Law and Reporters—Spencer Rodgers.

Shorthand Literature—James M. Ruso.

Impartiality necessary in the Stenographer—A. P. Little.

Women as Law Stenographers—M. Jeanette Ballantyne.

Commercial Reporting—W. M. Gage.

The Future of the Profession—T. C. Rose.

Stenographic Reporting for the Press—D. L. Scott-Browne.

The members not designated as above were urged to prepare papers on any subject of interest to the profession.

Mr. Tinsley from the same committee on the assigning of topics to the different members to prepare papers upon, presented the minority report as follows :

Is Typewriter Demoralizing to the Profession, and does it tend to Insanity?—Rodgers.

The Relation of Billiards to Shorthand—Morgan.

Should Stenographers wear Socks, if so, what Size?—Wyckoff.

The Pleasures of Mayville, and the Rise and Fall of Bicycling—Thornton.

Ladies as Amanuenses—Tanner.

Damon and Pythias—D. L. Scott-Browne and A. J. Graham.

"That Nasty Smoke"—Miss Ballantyne.

Are Delays Dangerous?—Osgoodby.



The Benefits to be Derived by the Profession from Wet Towels—H. C. Demming.

The Value of an M. D. at Association Meetings—Rose.

Is Marriage a Good Thing for Reporters?—Earle.

Should our Legislative Sessions be Biennial?—Payne.

The Speediest and Easiest Way to put Supervisors out of their Misery.—Slocum.

The Uncertainties of Pool and Bowling—Ruso and Andrews.

Mr. Osgoodby offered the following amendment to Article 5 of the by-laws, and the same was adopted.

Sec. 1.—If any member fail to pay the amount of his assessment within sixty days after notice by mail shall have been served upon him by the Secretary, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to serve upon him, by mail, an additional notice, that unless the same be paid within one month thereafter, the name of such member shall be stricken from the rolls, and, in default of payment at or before the expiration of that time, his membership and all rights in respect thereof shall cease. But upon his written application, satisfactorily explaining the default, and upon the payment of all dues to the date of such application, the Executive Committee shall have power to reinstate such defaulting member.

On motion the convention was adjourned to meet at Buffalo, on the fourth Tuesday in August, 1881.

The business matters of the Association being disposed of, there seemed to be still one more duty incumbent upon the members and their invited guests, the performance of which involved the action on their part, to join the ranks of the resident members, and go with them to Cowan Grove, to partake of the palatable delights of a "Clam Bake" which had been provided for them in great elaboration. This must have been "the event of the season," for it has been ever afterwards referred to in glowing terms by the members who were present, the remembrance of which seems to linger with them, like the memory of a pleasant dream so indelibly impressed upon the minds of the participants, that it can never be forgotten. In these early years of the meetings of the Association, the "after pleasures" were not extended to the ladies present, therefore not being an eye witness to the festivities of that memorable occasion, for a full account of the same, we refer you to the printed report found in the proceedings of 1880.

The sixth annual meeting of the New York Stenographers' Association was held at the office of Messrs. Slocum and Thornton, Buffalo, N. Y., on the 23d and 24th days of August, 1881.

The meeting was called to order by President Tinsley. The roll-call revealed the fact that there were present twelve active members, three honorary members and eleven visitors. The President's address was a masterly effort, and contained many items of interest to the profession, which had presented themselves since the last meeting of the Association, besides the sad record of the death of two of its valued members, William Fletcher Duffield, of Rochester, and Worden E. Payne, of Albany; two faithful reporters, who died while still in the harness. Many letters of regret from absent members of the Association and friends of the profession, were read by the Secretary. Four gentlemen were admitted to active membership, and a long list of honorary members were also elected. The Treasurer's report showed a deficiency of \$56.36 of dues unpaid.

The following papers were read and ably discussed :

Reporting at Chautauqua—George H. Thornton.

Laws and Reporters—S. C. Rodgers.

Blunders—F. J. Morgan.

Canoeing as a Means of Rest and Recreation—C. F. Earle.

Women as Law Stenographers—M. Jeanette Ballantyne.

Pen Paralysis—William H. Slocum.

Partial and Impartial Stenographers—Adelbert P. Little.

The Future of our Profession—Theodore C. Rose.

Works for Reference—Spencer C. Rodgers.

The Topic Committee submitted the following subjects, assigned to the members named upon which to prepare papers for the next meeting of the Association.

Sanitary Requirements for a Stenographer—D. C. McEwen.

Motives which lead to the Selection of Stenography as a Profession—H. A. Briggs.

The Benefits of Phonographic Journals—A. P. Little.

The Raw Material Necessary for a Stenographer—D. L. Scott-Browne.

Scenes and Incidents Behind the Scenes and in the Manager's Sanctum—C. F. Tinkham.

The Rights and Province of a Stenographer in Court—C. G. Tinsley.

Laws and Reporters—S. C. Rodgers.

Professional Stenography as an Educator—E. P. Close.

Shorthand Literature—J. M. Ruso.

The Duties of Members toward the Association—C.

B. Post.

Technical Reporting—George H. Thornton.

Commercial Reporting in Comparison with Law Reporting—H. N. Gardiner.

Stenography and Stenographers—George R. Bishop.

Court Scenes and Incidents—W. W. Osgoodby.

“Three of a Kind”—The Relation Between the Law Reporter, the Newspaper Reporter and the Amanuensis—L. H. Eddy.

All members not designated as above were cordially invited to prepare papers upon subjects of interest to the profession.

A full and complete minority report was also presented by Mr. Cragin consisting of many amusing subjects assigned to the various members—apropos.

The Committee on Resolutions reported as follows :

### **In Memoriam.**

#### **WILLIAM FLETCHER DUFFIELD.**

Whereas, William F. Duffield has been taken from among us by the stern hand of death ; and,

Whereas, We here assembled desire to express in form our extreme grief at the sorrowful termination of so valuable a life ; therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Duffield we have suffered an irreparable loss—the loss of one of our most proficient reporters, one whom we learned to love, whose honesty and integrity never was assailed by suspicion, a most zealous advocate of principle and manly conduct toward his fellow men, untiring in his energies to advance the interests of the profession and whom we may well strive to emulate in virtue ; and,

Resolved, That we express our sincere sympathy to the relatives of the deceased in their sad affliction, and that an engrossed copy of these resolutions be sent to them. and that the resolutions be also inserted in the minutes of the meeting.

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#### **WORDEN E. PAYNE.**

Whereas, Through the Providence of God, Worden E. Payne, Vice-President of this Association, has departed from our midst ; and,

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Whereas, It is deemed most appropriate that his professional associates should upon this occasion express their deep sorrow at the sad event, and also express, truly though briefly, their estimate of the character of their deceased associate, now therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Payne the commonwealth has lost an upright and esteemed citizen ; those nearest and dearest to him, the kindest and most indulgent husband and parent ; the profession, the most efficient, faithful and industrious member, and this Association a member and officer of stainless integrity and sterling honesty ;—one who manifested by works a wise, faithful and continued devotion to its best interests, and displaying an untiring zeal and fidelity in promoting its advancement.

Resolved, That in his special professional branch he had few equals and no superior ; that his ability, and his kind and generous nature were worthy of the greatest admiration ; and that his graciousness of manner especially endeared him to all with whom he had relations.

Resolved, That in our association with him, the esteem and respect inspired by his ability, and faithful discharge of his public duty, increased our personal regard for him as a prudent counselor.

Resolved, That we will ever cherish the memory of our departed friend and associate, and recall with sad pleasure his noble acts and grand devotion to duty, both in his public and private life.

Resolved, That we sincerely and heartily sympathize with the family of the deceased in their great sorrow, and that these resolutions be entered upon our minutes, and a copy thereof transmitted by the Secretary to the bereaved family, and furnished for publication in the several phonetic journals.

The report of the committee was unanimously accepted.

Many fitting tributes were paid to the memory of both of the departed members of the Association by Messrs. Little, Rodgers, Roe and others. For want of space we only quote briefly from the communication sent by Mr. Osgoodby, the partner of the late Mr. Duffield. After giving a brief outline of his career as an official reporter, his struggle with the dread and insidious malady, consumption and its final culmination, he says :

“ This first death in our Association is not without its lesson to us all. At the entrance of a life of noble usefulness, surrounded by friends who would gladly have held

him back from the fate which finally blotted out his opening years, with cultivated tastes, with warm and generous sympathies, he was called to lay down his armor and to be at rest. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," the call came—and the call was obeyed! In the prime of manhood he has fallen, and all he loved and all he hoped for in this life has faded from his eyes. It is hard to realize all that is implied in a loss like this, and nothing that you and I may say, or that we may inscribe upon our records, can change the bitter fact, or serve to lengthen out his fame. Our words die away in the vibrations of the air into which we speak; our records perish, and their treasures are forever lost; even his vacant place may soon be filled by another. What, then may we do, that the influence of our departed friend may still be exerted among those with whom he loved to consort? His voice, which we were wont to hear, is forever silenced; the interest which he once expressed in our work he will express no more; his hand we never more may clasp in token of our friendship or in acknowledgment of his. *This* may we do—in our sorrow at his early death, we may bear in our hearts the remembrance of his friendship, and, cherishing his memory, we may emulate the graces of his character and life."

President Tinsley read many sympathizing notices of the press relative to the high esteem in which the late Worden E. Payne was held as the official reporter of the Assembly. Mr. Rodgers, a warm personal friend of the deceased brother paid many fitting tributes to his memory, from which we quote the following :

"I cannot permit this occasion to pass without placing a leaflet or two upon the bier, one thus stricken down in the vigor of his talents, in the prime of his usefulness, and at an age when 'The shadows were still falling toward the West.'

" Like a shadow thrown  
Sottily and sweetly from a passing cloud,  
Death fell upon him."

"With a frame delicate and fragile, and a constitution broken by early sickness, he struggled with a profession which so often and so sorely tries the nerves of the most equable, until its excitement and exhausting duties sapped his scanty energies, and 'God's finger touched him and he slept.' Had his duties been performed in a cold and formal manner, undoubtedly his life might have been prolonged.

"While his tenement has drifted out from the shores of time upon a tide whose flood never more can return the barque to her former moorings, leaving behind sorrowing hearts and tearful eyes, he rests with a character untarnished, an integrity unspotted by even suspicion, a bright and enviable professional reputation, and a memory fragrant with all that adorns and dignifies our humanity.

"These dispensations ought to soften the heart to nature's gentler influences, teaching us forbearance, and aiding in the cultivation of fraternal courtesy, which so much lightens the toil of a laborious profession at the best.

"Placing upon his mound the evergreen sprig of friendship and affection, cherishing his memory with most fraternal regard, let us hope, when the last grain shall have escaped from life's hour glass, and we are transferred thither, we may experience a happy reunion with our loved friend."

"We only know that all is for the best,  
To God we leave the rest,  
So, reverent, beneath the mystery  
Of life and death, we yield  
Back to the Great Unknown the spirit given  
A few brief years to blossom in our field."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :

President—George H. Thornton.

Vice-President—F. M. Adams.

Secretary and Treasurer—A. L. Woodward.

Executive Committee—James M. Ruso, H. C. Tanner, T. C. Rose, A. P. Little, D. C. McEwen, G. H. Thornton, (ex-officio).

The meeting adjourned to meet in New York on the first Tuesday in August, 1882.

#### THE SOCIAL PROCEEDINGS.

The description of the banquet given by the Buffalo members at the spacious and elegant rooms of the City Club, by the city papers, vied with all previous entertainments before, extending in sumptuousness, beauty of design and elaborate menu, was served in an admirable manner, and was seemingly heartily enjoyed by all.

The following toasts were responded to :

The Outgoing President—C. G. Tinsley.

Our Incoming President—G. H. Thornton.

Stenographers—Great, Mediocre and Little, A. P. Little.

The Relation of Stenography to the Legal Profession, Henry W. Box.

The Press—Thomas Kean.

The International Stenographic Congress—Dan Brown.

Stenography for Lawyers—Simon Fleischmann.

Stenographers of Chicago—J. L. Bennett.

Dum Tacent Clamant—The Bivalve—S. C. Rodgers.

Lockport Lawyers and the Buffalo Bar—John Laughlin.

Stenography of the West—L. H. Eddy.

Stenographers of Ontario—N. R. Butcher.

The Ladies—George Matthews.

Other toasts were responded to, and after a goodly number of stories from "all hands" and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" the festivities closed at an early morning hour with the usual informal toasts and general farewells among the delegates. The proposed steam yacht trip down Niagara River was abandoned of necessity, so many of the delegates being called away by waiting business.

The seventh annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers Association, was held at the St. Denis Hotel, Broadway and Eleventh Street, New York City, August 1st and 2d, 1882.

President Thornton called the meeting to order.

There were present eleven active members, six honorary members and fourteen visitors.

In the absence of Secretary Woodward, Thomas R. Griffith reported the meeting.

The President's address was an able effort ; full of good thoughts and cheering words ; urging the members to bear the standard of proficiency higher and higher ; that in stenographic work, as well as in every other profession, "There was always room in the upper story" for technical improvement and skilled labor.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$33.92. A gift of ten dollars from J. M. W. Yarrington, a honorary member, was noted, and suitable action tendering the thanks of the Association for said gift was taken. The report also showed that five active members had withdrawn from the Association within the year.

The usual long list of letters of regret for inability to be present at the meeting was read by the Secretary.

The following papers were read and discussed :

Material for Shorthand Work—A. P. Little.

The Benefits of Phonographic Journals—A. P. Little.

Stenographic Laws and Reporters of the United States—S. C. Rodgers.

The Raw Material Necessary for a Stenographer—D. L. Scott-Browne.

Official Stenographers—Theo. C. Rose.

Perfecting Perfection—A. B. Iglie.

Motives which should Lead to the Selection of Stenography as a Profession—H. A. Briggs.

The Rights and Duties of a Stenographer in Court—C. G. Tinsley.

Reporting in the United States Courts—H. G. Stripe.

Reporting on the Frontier—Eugene Moore.

History of Phonography—T. D. Schoonmaker.

The committee on topics and assignments, reported as follows :

Office Work—James H. Fish.

Shorthand Literature—James M. Ruso.

Technical Reporting—George H. Thornton.

Stenography as an Educator—E. F. Close.

The Conduct of Conventions—W. O. Wyckoff.

Male, or Female Amanuenses?—C. Fred Tinkham.

Laws and Reporters, continued—S. C. Rodgers.

The Tenure of Official Appointment—D. C. McEwen.

Scenes and Incidents Behind the Scenes and in the Manager's Sanctum—C. F. Tinkham.

Competent and Incompetent Stenographers—The Mushrooms and Toadstools of the Profession—Look alike but are far different—B. Moynahan.

(Papers will be prepared by Messrs. Geo. R. Bishop, E. F. Underhill, D. S. Geer, and J. F. C. Grow and other gentlemen.)

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :

President—George R. Bishop.

Vice-President—A. P. Little.

Secretary and Treasurer—Thomas R. Griffith.

Executive Committee—J. M. Ruso, F. M. Adams, W.

O. Wyckoff, F. J. Morgan, E. F. Close and George R. Bishop, ex-officio.

Three active and six honorary members were duly elected. President-elect Bishop announced the following examining committee :

First District—B. Moynahan.

Second District—D. C. McEwen.

Third District—S. C. Rodgers.

Fourth District—James M. Ruso.

Fifth District—Charles F. Earle.



Sixth District—T. C. Rose.

Seventh District—M. Jeanette Ballantyne.

Eighth District—Irrving F. Cragin.

Many of the New York City stenographers dropped in during the sessions of the Association, thus evincing their fraternal interest. The meeting proved to be, in every way, a remarkably pleasant and profitable one.

The meeting adjourned to meet at Watkins Glen, on the third Tuesday in August, 1883.

At the close of the meeting, President-elect Bishop, on behalf of himself, Mr. Fish, and two or three other New York stenographers, invited the members of the Association to join them in a banquet at Martineilli's, Fifth Avenue and Sixteenth Street, prepared in honor of those invited, and at which nearly all were present who had attended the business sessions of the Association.

It is said that this collation was served in faultless style, with a marked display of hospitality and generous welcome extended to all present. After the cigars were lighted, anecdotes, humorous stories, impromptu poems and recitations were the order, and were heartily enjoyed by all present; the hours flew by apace, good cheer prevailed and "all went merry as a marriage bell," until the "wee sma' hours" increased in number, when the happy participants dispersed with the kindest and most grateful feeling towards their entertainers.

Thus ended the grand finale banquet of the New York State Stenographers' Association, from which the fair sex were ever excluded, while the lords of creation held full sway.

The eighth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at the Court House at Watkins, Schuyler County, on the 21st and 22d days of August, 1883.

The meeting was called to order, August 21st, at 11 o'clock A. M. by President Bishop.

In the absence of Secretary Griffith, H. A. Briggs was on motion chosen secretary pro tem.

There were present nine active members, five honorary members and nine visitors.

President Bishop introduced the Hon. M. J. Sunderlin, County Judge of Schuyler County, who addressed the convention.

Preliminarily, he stated that he came to give the members of the Association a hearty welcome to the place and to the hearts of the people. He said he remembered when the art of shorthand reporting was first introduced in the

Seventh Judicial District ; that one smart little fellow who came to report the evidence in causes tried, threw the whole Yates County Bar into a flurry. He said that he was fully convinced that the stenographic art had been one of the greatest aids in the administration of justice that had ever been adopted. By the introduction of the shorthand system, lawyers had been obliged to bestir themselves—judges had now no time to sleep upon the bench and the business of the courts had been very greatly facilitated.

He concluded by saying, "We think—and visitors have confirmed it—we have, surrounding our village, some of the finest scenery in the world. We hope your stay with us will be both a pleasant and a happy one."

President Bishop responded in a few well-chosen words on the part of the Association.

Then followed the opening address of President Bishop, from which the following extracts are taken. In this address we find a prophecy of Mr. Bishop's first pamphlet of 1884, *Outlines of a Modified Phonography*, since expanded, with many modifications, into *Exact Phonography* :

"Members would doubtless from time to time present papers falling under each of those several designations. On all those subjects, kindly criticism and courteous discussion would be desirable. For my part, should I ever become convinced, as I think I may, of the entire practical utility of a scheme that I hope to perfect for a more definite, easy and expressive representation of the vowel sounds in connection with the consonant outlines, with a few modifications, of phonography, my first step would be to make it known to the members of this body, that I might obtain from them, practical men as they are, expressions of their opinion, with, perchance, valuable hints for improving the scheme."

We find, also, some of the kind of criticism of authentic and fictional stories of shorthand achievement, which he has been wont to give, as he has from time to time felt that too great credulity was exhibited by some of the investigators into the old annals :

"The suggestion having once been caught, the need of an abbreviated writing being apparent and pressing, there is every reason to conclude that ingenious men labored to construct a practical, easy system of stenography ; among such, Tiro may have been distinguished by his superior success ; he may have so improved and systematized the stenography that he

“found, as to fairly justify the application of the name, “notæ Tironianæ, to the improved and more fairly “developed result.

“But at this point skepticism again interposes, and “may as well be expressed. My doubt is, as to the “adequacy of even the improved Tironian shorthand to “the exigencies of strictly *verbatim* reporting. In the “course of a somewhat careful study of the history of the “art, I believe I have come in contact with most of the “authorities on which our conclusions concerning it are “based. You will, I trust, assume that I am familiar with “what Martial, Ausonius, the Roman writers generally, “have written concerning it ; possibly you are familiar “with the same passages, and have drawn, namely : “that they exhibit brilliant examples of the poetic license “of exaggeration, fairly rivalling some Roman chroniclers “in a liberal use of it. The picture of the skillful aman- “uensis whose fingers fly over the waxen tables so “swiftly that the words are written before the lips have “uttered them, anticipating thought, itself, would deserve, “if possessing equal beauty and dignity, a place beside “the story of Tullius Hostilius and that of a Castor and “Pollux, in the purely legendary annals of the city. A “reference to the passage in Isidorus in which he describes “the *modus operandi* of reporting a speech, is not calcu- “lated to dispel any of the skepticism which Ausonius “arouses. Imagine, if you will, the company of steno- “graphers assembled, and the speaker to begin ; imagine “the first stenographer taking his six words, the next his “six, and so on, till each writer has taken that number, “and the first resumes and takes another six ; imagine “each of these eight or ten stenographers, or whatever “the number may be, keeping count not only while he “writes, but also, while the others write ; because, in “order to know when to resume and take his next half- “dozen words, he must not only keep count of his own “written words, but also of each half-dozen that each of “his associates writes ! Then, imagine the meeting of “these stenographers at the conclusion of the speech to “put together these hundreds of six-word fragments, and “reproduce the oration ! It is desirable to imagine that, “because Isidorus says : ‘That is the way it was “chiefly done !’ The practical, modern stenographer “could scarcely imagine anything more absurd, and could “scarcely have presented to him a more complete demon- “stration of the utter inadequacy of Roman shorthand to “the requirements of *verbatim* work.”

"Puzzling problems meet the investigator at every  
 "turn ; and some compilers of books that ought to be an  
 "aid, have confused the matter by careless writing. One  
 "pretentious German work, a translation of which, by an  
 "eminent scholar, a great American house publishes an  
 "edition of, gravely asserts, while describing the great  
 "demand, in Rome, for books for public and private  
 "libraries, and the abundance of the supply furnished  
 "through the copying by educated slaves,—that by  
 "those copyists manuscripts were copied with astonish-  
 "ing celerity, with the aid of abbreviations, called from  
 "their inventor Tironian Notes ! Such a statement affords  
 "the inquirer no assistance ; if he believes it, he is driven  
 "to the conclusion, either that the Tironian abbreviations  
 "did not deserve the name of shorthand at all, or that  
 "there was, in Rome, such a widely diffused familiarity  
 "with stenography as no modern capital ever witnessed ;  
 "for the copies would have been useless and unsaleable,  
 "if the public or men of letters could not read them.  
 "The members of this Association, living in a country  
 "inhabited by many millions of readers,—a country in  
 "which works of shorthand, expositions of systems far  
 "superior to the Tironian as elucidated in the *Palæo-*  
 "graphic Critica, are sold at small prices, yet in which  
 "books printed in any one of those systems find and  
 "would find but few purchasers, and still fewer who  
 "could read those works with facility,—are in no danger  
 "of being misled by so improbable a statement. Cicero  
 "was not surprised at the inability of his correspondent  
 "to read his letter ; for he had written it—apparently in a  
 "moment of absentmindedness—in character. That he,  
 "himself, should have been able to write the Roman  
 "stenography is not surprising, considering that he con-  
 "stantly made use of it, for the purposes of dictation and  
 "of preserving the substance of his own speeches and  
 "those of his adversaries."

The following extract shows the manner in which,  
 looking among the old and musty records, he has been  
 fortunate enough to make some discoveries ; in this case  
 of Jacques Cossard, by many years preceding the refer-  
 ence to him at the London, 1887, Congress.

"I have seen, and have taken a copy of the alphabet  
 "of, a little book in French, published in 1651, antedat-  
 "ing, by 30 years, the *Tacheographie* ; but its dimensions  
 "are small, and it may have been among those that An-  
 "gell had seen, but which he regarded as of no account.  
 "The book seems to be a fairly good specimen, as com-

"pared with English works of the same period, but its  
"its system would evidently have been inadequate to the  
"exigencies of *verbatim* reporting."

He also dwells, as an incentive to further study and search into the history of the subject, on the distinguished names that have been associated with our art, Dickens, and some others, in part as follows :—

"Then, the writer names others who have been parliamentary reporters ; Sir James Mackintosh, Allan Cunningham, S. C. Hall ; Mr. Justice Dowling of New South Wales, Sir John Campbell, the Attorney General, Mr. Stevens, one of the Masters in Chancery, Mr. Black, of the *Morning Chronicle*, so affectionately remembered by Dickens, and others, most of whom have run their mortal race, but none of whom are held in affectionate regard by millions of English speaking people."

The Secretary read communications regarding absence from convention, expressive of fraternal feelings, &c., from C. F. Tinkham, D. C. McEven and Willard Fracker, New York ; R. V. Ingersoll, Philadelphia ; A. C. Bowman, Seattle, Wyo. Ter. ; H. C. Demming, Harrisburg, Pa. ; C. G. Tinsley, Grand Rapids, Mich. ; Thomas Bengough, Toronto, Canada ; Prof. J. W. Zeibig, Dresden, Saxony ; D. A. Sullivan, N. Y., together with a very humorous and entertaining letter of regrets for non-attendance from Edward F. Underhill, Siasconset Beach, Nantucket, Mass.

Upon motion, the resignation of Mr. A. L. Woodward, H. N. Gardner and Mrs. Palmer were received, and that of C. G. Tinsley was laid upon the table. William R. Lansing, of Rochester, Mrs. Eliza B. Burns, James H. Fish, George C. Appel and A. W. Caswell, of New York, were elected to active membership. J. G. Cross, Miss Mary L. Minor, M. E. Jones, M. H. Ford and Mrs. F. A. Holland were elected to honorary membership.

Paper—entitled "Fugitive Thoughts on Stenography"—by Prof. J. W. Zeibig, Dresden, Saxony, the translation of the same was read by Mr. Little. It contained many valuable thoughts and was well received by the Association.

Then followed the reading of Mr. Rodgers' Paper—Stenographic Laws of the United States—which was listened to with the same undivided attention, as all previous papers contributed to the Association by the same author, have been by those most thoroughly interested in the subject.

Mr. Rose read a very interesting and entertaining paper upon Theatrical Reminiscences—kindly contributed by Mr. C. F. Tinkham.

Mrs. Eliza B. Burns gave an enthusiastic talk on Spelling Reform, a subject she has been for many years especially interested in, and urged with pronounced emphasis, its adoption by all the members of the stenographic profession. After speaking at considerable length, she offered a resolution that the proceedings of the present meeting be printed in amended spelling, according to the five rules approved by the English and American Spelling Reform Associations, which, after being thoroughly discussed, was lost.

Mr. T. J. Tilley, of Kansas City, Mo., in a speech, introduced the subject of shorthand, and asked the question—"What is the future of the shorthand writer?" He said—"How easy to ask the question, but how difficult to give a satisfactory answer." In this, as in all other matters, we can best judge of the future by the past. Go where you will, and what do you see? Hundreds of young men and young ladies seeking some avocation to engage in for a livelihood. At the same time your eye is almost certain to catch the advertisement, either local or foreign, of some person who is willing to prostitute a noble calling for the purpose of fleecing the inexperienced out of a few dollars. I need not tell you that this man is a "professor" who could not possibly earn his living as a practical stenographer, a man who advertises allopathic lies and homœopathic truths, and who succeeds as a "professor" in the proportion that he dupes his patrons and pupils. It is a common thing to read in these advertisements of the fabulous salaries received by stenographers, amanuenses and professionals; the amanuenses receiving from one to two thousand dollars per annum and the professionals from three to five thousand dollars and more per annum, and the greatest lie of all is, that the ability to earn these amounts can be acquired in an incredibly short space of time. \* \* \* There is no "royal road" to wealth in this country; neither did any one ever become an accomplished stenographer without most arduous labor and years of practical experience.

I have no sympathy with those who are continually talking about teaching shorthand to the children with the view of its adoption by the masses as a means of communication. Of all the fallacies that have ever been uttered upon this subject, I regard that as the greatest. The practice of stenography has been, is now, and

always will be, distinctly a profession for the few, and I deem it only necessary, in proof of this statement, to cite you to the very few persons now writing shorthand, even in its corresponding or simpler style, as compared with the great number who have at some time in their lives studied the art and utterly failed of its mastery. Whatever mode of writing is adopted as a means of communication must possess such features as to permit it to be written and read by the people generally. Long as long-hand is, it can never be superseded by a system of shorthand that is not nearly or equally as long, and one whose letters are not easily distinguished so that it may be written readily—not to say carelessly—and still be read. All this fanatical twaddle as to a phonetic and universal system of writing is kept up by certain authors and teachers whose principal object is to dispose of text books, but Gabriel's trumpet will be heard before that millenium arrives.

Mr. J. G. Cross, the author of the Electric System of Shorthand was the next speaker : He said : "I have for a long time had a desire to visit this association. Its extended and excellent reputation has induced in me a strong desire to be with you upon such an occasion as this, and I am very glad of this opportunity to meet you. The two valuable papers to which I have already listened I think have amply repaid me for coming, not to refer to the acquaintances I have formed. I strongly wish that they may be perpetuated. As an author of a system of shorthand, perhaps a few thoughts on that system would interest you, and if so I will detain you for a short time with a little explanation of it."

Mr. Cross proceeded to explain the leading features of his system of shorthand, the marked differences between it and the other systems best known to the profession, its advantages, &c., which were listened to with much interest.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year : T. C. Rose, of Norwich, president ; B. Moynahan of New York, vice-president ; H. A. Briggs of Buffalo, secretary and treasurer. Executive Committee : A. P. Little of Rochester, James H. Fish of New York, C. B. Post of Catskill, M. A. Laux of Buffalo, Mrs. E. B. Burnz of New York, the president ex-officio. Active members elected : W. C. Graham of Binghamton, William S. Kerschner of Elmira, Mrs. E. B. Burnz and Miss Jennie Turner of New York. Honorary members elected : Joseph Coxe of Philadelphia.

On motion, the convention adjourned to meet August 19, 1884, at Hotel Kaaterskill, Catskill Mountains.

Many of the members and friends of the association tarried after the adjournment of the convention to ramble through the far-famed and picturesque Watkins Glen. Extracts from the phonographic press :

"The association is convened, we look upon the faces and receive the cordial greeting from some of these well-known experts. We find them really men, men of the genuine stamp. We expected more, but not better men. Sitting down with them we felt at once at home in their quiet, businesslike way ; felt like one of them. The very valuable papers presented so impressed us that we feel like pounding every absent member. That papers of such research and extent, so interesting and valuable to all stenographers, should be delivered to a mere fraction of the association seems pitiable and reprehensible in the extreme. It is not enough to know that they shall be spread upon the records and published, and that all may read and digest them. Such papers deserve the dignity of an audience, and the men who have, by patient research and reflection, developed them, deserve as much and more. What inducement is there, even to patient toilers and lovers of the art, to delve with long continued industry in the mines of thought to bring forth gems whose brilliancy shall flash unappreciated, unseen and unheard? There should be some means of compelling a full attendance of the members at these annual meetings. If all stenographers would but interest themselves in the work of the associations, and post themselves on the best measures demanded for the welfare of the craft, and concertedly and intelligently work for these ends, legislation, instead of being generally adverse to the interests of the profession, might soon be relied on to elevate the status of the art to a uniform and just level. The peculiar qualities of mind possessed by the successful stenographer, which has enabled him to persevere in the practice of his art until success has crowned his effort, it would seem, would hold him like the needle to the pole, true to any laudable, concentrated effort undertaken by the profession. The very active life of the stenographer often obliges him to constantly defer the preparation of his paper for the association, until he finds the time of the annual gathering is again upon him, and he is totally unprepared, and, concluding that under these conditions his presence will not be important, he concludes to remain at home, and writes his regrets at his inability to be present. There are,



doubtless, in this, as in all other professions, some who follow it simply, or chiefly, for the dollars which it provides. If their first visit to the association does not demonstrate to them that it will in some way add to their efficiency, or in some other way conduce to put money in their pocket, of course, their seats at the association will ever remain vacant. But this class of stenographers is largely in the minority. Ho, ye royal knights of the swift quill ; ye on whom the dignity and perpetuity, and future perfection of the art depend !

"Have ye considered well the importance of the art and the artist, of con-association ? Your speaking pen embodies an art second to none, parallel with that of speech ; nay, greater than that of the tongue, for it both speaks and perpetuates his voice, while the most golden speech dies upon the air like the sound of bells. Personifying the noblest art of dignified humanity, how much lofty purpose, and high endeavor, and honest effort become you, to seek the purest, and fullest, and simplest mode of expression, that the art may be lifted as high as this generation can heave it toward ultimate perfection."—*Exponent*, Bloomington, Ill.

"This meeting, although not so largely attended as some of the former meetings of the New York Association, was an important and interesting one. Those who have not attended these annual gatherings, international and state, can scarcely realize the pleasure enjoyed by those who do attend, and which cannot be gained from the printed proceedings, although there is much to be learned from them. There is a more pleasant and lasting benefit to be derived from the opportunities which these gatherings afford of becoming acquainted with each other, and learning that a brother or sister stenographer is not a wizard, to be shunned, nor a wild beast, to be feared, but veritable man or woman, whose friendship is worth having. The disease most prevalent among shorthand writers is ignorance. By this I mean ignorance of one another. If we knew each other better we would have more respect for each other and ourselves, and these annual gatherings afford the best opportunities for obtaining this kind of knowledge.

"As one who has enjoyed these meetings, and who does not wish to monopolize everything that is good, we would recommend shorthanders everywhere to arrange their vacations for next year to include, during the month of August, attendance at the New York State meeting, Catskill Mountains, on the 19th."—*News*, Chicago.

The ninth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at the Laurel House, Catskill Mountains, Greene County, on the 19th day of August, 1884.

The meeting was called to order by President Rose at 11 A. M.

In the absence of Secretary Briggs, James M. Ruso was chosen secretary pro tem. On motion, the reading of the minutes of the last year's proceedings and the calling of the roll were dispensed with.

President Rose addressed the convention as follows :

Members of the Association : In accordance with the design of the founders of this Association, we have again assembled to consider such questions as may have arisen during the year touching the interests of the stenographic profession ; to present and discuss whatever subjects may be thought of interest, and to renew the friendly greetings and associations of our annual re-union.

I shall not detain you on this occasion with an extended address. It is said that "time is money," but it is more than money with us to-day, for there are those here who are desirous of participating in the proceedings of our meeting, and also to reach Harrisburg in time to take part in the meeting to be held there, and I shall therefore not trespass upon your patience, nor keep you from fields of greater profit and pleasure.

I gratefully appreciate the honor conferred upon me in being chosen to act as your presiding officer at this meeting, and return you my sincerest thanks for this mark of confidence and regard.

The gentlemen who met nine years ago and organized this Association, were practical men, and the objects which they sought to accomplish were those that should be, and are, of practical benefit to the stenographer. Careful observation during years of practice, had impressed upon them the fact that the advancement and success of the profession could be soonest and best accomplished, by a unity of purpose and action, and by harmonious and combined effort. They were aware of the influences that had so long operated to keep stenographers aloof from each other, and with this experience they went to work with a determination to dispel them, and to establish that friendly relation which intercourse and association promotes, and which is so beneficial to all professions. Good, honest, conscientious work was deemed of more importance than mere theory, and was adopted as the passport of admission into the Association. There have

been no dissensions or clashings, but whatever has occurred to the mind of one member as useful or advantageous, has been presented, discussed, and fairly considered by the others. The benefits derived from association are most important. The individual mind is enlarged and developed by contact with others, and a spirit of inquiry and observation is aroused. Subjects with which one person may be especially acquainted, when presented, elicit discussion and inquiry, and a spirit of interest is awakened, which leads to study and investigation, and thereby knowledge is gained.

By mutual intercourse, and by a consciousness of the fact that our own status is determined by the discerning and enlightened judgment of our professional brethren, the standard of professional competency is *elevated and maintained*.

The president's address was very earnest and practical and set forth the arduous and exhaustive work of both mind and body of the stenographer, the increasing demand for skilled, stenographic labor; the recognition of its worth and appreciation as shown by its introduction into Congress and other legislative bodies. He touched beautifully upon the traditions and historical quotations concerning the present place of meeting.

" And lo ! the Catskills print the distant sky,  
And o'er their airy tops the faint clouds driven ;  
So softly blending that the cheated eye,  
Forgets or which is earth or which is heaven."

In closing his address the president said : "In behalf of the committee, I take great pleasure in welcoming you to this beautiful spot. Here upon this mountain side we may draw inspiration from the contemplation of this grand scene spread before us, embracing river, mountain, plain and sky, the "white sails of commerce" upon the distant water, and the solitude and grandeur of mountain, ravine and crag. We are not disturbed by the bickerings of quarrelsome attorneys, and the winds that play among these trees bring no rumors of slanders, assaults, robberies and murders ; but whisper of the goodness of the Creator to all His creatures, giving us renewed vigor and strength for the prosecution of the work to which we must soon return."

Upon motion, the regular order of business was suspended, when Mr. Bishop said : We have with us a gentleman whom I should like to propose as an honorary member of the Association. I refer to Mr. Cornelius Walford of London, England.

In substance, Mr. Bishop continued : Mr. Walford comes from the other side, where he was the first president of the English Shorthand Society ; though not actively engaged in shorthand work at present, he has mastered not less than one hundred systems of shorthand and is familiar with the historical progress of shorthand from its inception with Bright in 1588, and others, to this time. To him may very aptly be applied these lines by Sidney Dobell :

" Ravelstone, Ravelstone,  
The merry path that leads  
Down the golden morning hills,  
And through the silver meads "

Mr. Walford was unanimously elected to Honorary Membership of the Association. Mr. Walford responded as follows. After thanking the members for the honor conferred upon him said : " I am a worker ; I learned in early times the importance of work, and the practice of shorthand was one of the chief means by which the lesson of work was engrafted upon me. After I had investigated not less than one hundred and eighteen different systems, and made myself tolerable familiar with them, I light upon Pitman's phonography ; and when I use the word "lighted," it is a proper word ; there *was* light in it. I felt there was something in shorthand that I never dreamed of before. There was a science about the whole thing. It was not a question of ingenuity or of memory. It was the question of the right thing in the right place, in a very marked degree, and I became an adept in stenography at that time, and I have stood, I hope, its firm friend ever since."

The following stenographers were elected to active membership of the Association : Mrs. Clara E. Brockway, Brooklyn ; Miss Annie K. Ridgeway, Miss Marv E. Collins and Mr. S. Oppenheim, New York ; Mrs. E. F. Rowley, Rochester ; W. B. Estabrook, Ithaca ; John E. Kelly, Troy.

The following stenographers were elected to honorary membership of the Association : Mr. Cornelius Walford and Thomas Allen Reed, London, England ; Philip Joyce, Buffalo ; William B. Wright, Boston. Mr. Bishop offered the following resolution :

Whereas, This Association has become aware, with deep regret of the death of Mr. Frank P. Tupper, an official stenographer in the State of Pennsylvania, and an honorary member of this Association.

Resolved, That this Association, appreciating the rare qualities of intellect and heart with which he was endowed, and the conscientious manner in which it was

his wont to perform every duty incumbent upon him, desire hereby to express their collective and individual sorrow at his untimely taking off, and their sympathy with his family, who most sensibly feel his loss ; and that a copy of this resolution be engrossed and transmitted to his family.

Mr. Little—Mr. President, I second this motion ; and I take the liberty of seconding it, for the reason that Mr. Tupper had long been a personal friend of my own ; and not only that, but he is the individual who started me in shorthand. He procured for me the first book I ever saw on shorthand, and in all probability if I had never seen Mr. Tupper, I never would have been a stenographer. He has been a gentleman who has been very highly esteemed by myself and by every stenographer who has known him, as I understand. He was a person whose memory ought to be cherished, and I do not know that we can cherish it in any better manner than by adopting the resolution.

The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

Mr. Rodgers offered the following resolution :

Whereas, This Association desires to place upon record some recognition of the great service rendered the profession generally by Julius Ensign Rockwell in the recently issued work upon shorthand, published by the Bureau of Education.

Resolved, That the New York State Association extends hearty thanks to Mr. Rockwell for the interest manifested in the art, and which has taken form in the invaluable work referred to.

The resolution was greatly appreciated by the Association and was unanimously adopted.

The following papers were read :

Is the Typewriter a Boon to the Professional Stenographer, by B. Moynahan.

The Relations of Stenographers to Supervisors, by a County Court Reporter.

"Ten Thousand a Year," by M. Jeanette Ballantyne.

Early Systems of Shorthand Known in America, by Cornelius Walford.

Technical Reporting, by George H. Thornton.

Reporting Reminiscences, Theodore C. Rose.

A Stenographer of the Old School, George R. Bishop.

Do We Need Amended Spelling? Eliza B. Burnz.

Stenographic Statutes, Spencer C. Rodgers.

The Committee on Nominations presented the following report :

A. P. Little, of Rochester, President.

James M. Ruso, of Albany, Vice-President.

M. Jeanette Ballantyne, of Rochester, Secretary and Treasurer.

Executive Committee—E. P. Close, of Buffalo ; T. C. Rose, of Norwich ; George C. Appell, of New York ; C. F. Earle, of Syracuse ; T. D. Schoonmaker, of Goshen.

On motion of Mr. Bishop, the report was accepted, and on motion of Mr. Thornton, the Secretary was requested to and did cast the ballot of the Association for the nominees, and they were declared duly elected.

Appending the Secretary's Report was the following :  
 " There has been sent me, as Secretary, with the compliments of Mr. Edward Pocknell, of London, England, an exceedingly interesting and valuable book, entitled " An Historical Account of Shorthand," by James Henry Lewis, of Ebley, Gloucestershire, England, published in 1816 ; also a pamphlet from Mr. George R. Bishop, of New York, entitled " Outlines of a Modified Phonography," both of which I submit herewith. H. A. Briggs, Secretary."

On motion, it was determined to hold the next annual meeting at the International Hotel, Niagara Falls, August 18th and 19th. 1885.

Before submitting a motion to adjourn, President Rose said : " I sincerely thank you, fellow members, for your kind indulgence with my inexperience in parliamentary usages. I trust I may have the pleasure of meeting you all at our tenth annual gathering. Wishing you a safe journey home and continued prosperity, I declare this meeting adjourned.

The tenth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at the International Hotel, Niagara Falls, on the 18th and 19th days of August, 1885. There were present fifteen active members and six honorary members : There were also present twenty-six visiting stenographers.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., August 18, 1885.

The meeting was called to order by President Little at 3 p. m., who addressed the Association :

Members of the New York State Stenographers Association : The President congratulates this Association upon the prosperity which has attended it during its ten years of existence. Looking back over that brief decade of years, many of us recall the initiatory steps which were taken, the consultations which were had, the gathering together of the few, the culmination of their efforts into

an organization which now needs no imperial ægis to protect it, an organization which is protected by the favor of public opinion, that tribunal before which the proudest tremble and the loftiest bow; an organization whose character has been maintained by the honor and integrity of the stenographic profession of the State of New York. As we contemplate the benefits which have been derived from the association of minds and ideas, the interchange of thought, the moulding together of opinions, the wholeness of the results, we breathe a silent blessing upon the day which gave this Association its birth-right

Those who have attended the yearly convocations of this Association have added to its honor and reputation by their wise counsel and good words. The interest of an Association is best maintained by energy, activity and faithfulness, and while our conventions are always "full of absentees," we would that they might come out of their lethargic stupor occasioned by the saline atmosphere of the "sad sea wave" or the miasmatic vapors of some inland fish pond, that they might come to the surface from the depths of their deep despair, and, like the monster of the sea, breathe and spout to their hearts' content, believing, as we do, that they would then find the brilliancy of their reportorial firmament greatly increased, and that the star of success would shine upon them with an added luster.

Year after year we have met together and driven another rivet in the band of fraternal friendship which binds us together, until the structure which it sustains has no fear of falling. Year after year we have shaken the plumbago from our raiment and donned an air of indifference to weary toil, and met together in social convocation and renewed that friendship which is the corner stone of our Association. Some of those whom we loved to meet have gone to that Court on high whence there is no returning; others whom we were wont to see at our yearly gatherings have been seized by an uncurbable ambition for a more sudden possession of worldly goods, and their once nimble fingers have lost their cunning and are now becoming calloused in their new work of satisfying the coupnic desires of their possessors. But, while our ranks have been depleted, there have been introduced to us those who stand high in the profession, and as we meet to counsel together and to breathe the fresh air of heaven as it is whirlpooled around the little circle made mystic by its hieroglyphic proclivities, they are with us and we listen to their eloquence with rapture and wonder,

for it flows like the fire and lava from a volcano, not because of an ability to expel it, but because of an inability to withhold it.

A quarter of a century ago there was scarcely as many stenographers in the United States as there are here to-day ; a quarter of a century hence there will be scarcely enough persons who are not stenographers, to hold a convention.

To-day we look with pride upon the profession of the State of New York. We glory in its honor and integrity. We scan the list and find there are but *very few* who can write faster than a man can talk, and we thank God that it is so. We look out upon the world and we cherish the kind words that are spoken ; we speak of ourselves with modesty, and sometimes deal in sarcasm, but there is often an underlying thought which it may be well for some to consider ; and while we may sometimes deal in prophecy, there is often a hidden meaning which may have a tinge of probability.

And here in the presence of the mighty Niagara whose snow-white arms of foam are waving in wild gyrations as they are borne along by the maddened waters toward the crest of the great cataract ; whose green waters shudder and tremble upon the brow of the awful chasm and invoke the powers and spirits of the nethermost abyss for protection ; whose seething and boiling floods create the thunderous roar which shakes the mighty groundwork of God's creation ; the sunbeams playing amid the spray and mist and forming themselves into a variegated rainbow which spans the majestic cañon and guides the ocean of water in its infuriated descent from the rocky battlements above to the fathomless hell beneath, we have assembled to celebrate our tenth anniversary.

We have with us to-day a number of distinguished visitors from across the border ; gentlemen of broad intellect and distinguished ability ; members of the profession, whose unstinted hospitality some of us have enjoyed, who have kindly accompanied us to this gathering to reassure us of the sincerity of their friendship, and whom we heartily welcome to our meeting, and from whom we at this time desire to hear ; and I will first call upon Mr. Thomas Bengough, the Honorary President of the Canadian Shorthand Society.

Mr. Thomas Bengough, Mr. Albert Horton, Mr. W. H. Orr, Mr. E. F. Horton, Mr. George H. Smith and Mr. George Bengough responded very ably to the call of the President relative to shorthand matters on the Canadian



side. The Association then listened to Mr. Arthur R. Bailey and Mr. W. S. Gompf of Connecticut who each gave a very interesting account of the shorthand interests in their State.

Letters of regret were received from Messrs. Devine, Dosh, Eddy, Geer, Irwin, Wodell, Collins, Lammert, Gatrell, Stripe and others.

The President stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Bishop, regretting his inability to be present owing to the dangerous illness of his sister-in-law, Miss Collins, and enclosing some extracts from a letter of July 30th ult. from Cornelius Walford Esq., as follows :

“For the last seven months I have been more or less sick, and constantly away from business. To-day my medical adviser informs me that my condition must be regarded as serious (dangerous); all work is to be given up, and I am to go entirely away, into the cold air of the North of Scotland for a few months, and see what rest will do for me. This is one of the last letters to your side that I shall be able to write before leaving. Pray remember me most kindly to all friends at the New York Convention at Niagara. I shall think of you all each day, and believe I shall be thought of by many of you.”

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That we members of the New York State Stenographers' Association, have learned, with deep regret, of the serious illness of Mr. Cornelius Walford, the first President of the English Shorthand Society, of London, whose visit to this country a year ago, and presence at our meeting in the Catskills, gave not only an opportunity for an interchange of cordial greetings with sister societies on the other side of the Atlantic, but brought us into contact and acquaintance with one in whom we were delighted to recognize a worker as earnest and indefatigable as a strict adherence to even the stenographic standard could demand, as well as a most courteous, genial and warm-hearted gentleman.

Resolved, That we especially appreciate his efforts, after he, himself, has won a high position in another profession,—that, namely, of the law,—to create and cultivate an interest on the part of shorthand writers, in the history, literature and bibliography of their art.

Resolved, That we hereby express to him our warmest regard, and our earnest wish for his speedy and complete recovery.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to him.

The regular order of business being suspended, all persons present, whether members or not, were invited to participate in the discussions.

The Secretary read the following paper by D. S. Geer, of New York. What may be Useful in "Miscellaneous Verbatim Reporting." After its discussion and the reading and discussion of Mr. W. H. Slocum's paper on "Topics," Mr. Rodgers addressed the chair as follows :

Mr. President, as our foreign visitors are unable to remain through the entire session, I desire, before they depart, to offer the following expression of reciprocity :

Whereas, A most cordial invitation was given by the Canadian Shorthand Writers' Society to the members of our Association to join them at their fourth annual meeting at Toronto, yesterday ; and in pursuance thereof a representative from the New York Association attended, and was accorded a most unexpected and fraternal reception, and,

Whereas, This Association wishes to record its appreciation of the hospital and courteous treatment received from our Canadian brethren, and pay tribute to the spirit which leads so many of them to join us to-day, therefore be it

Resolved, That though words may inadequately express our estimate of the fraternal feeling manifested by them, the Canadian Societies are assured that gratitude has a firm lodgment in our hearts, and that the recollection of their courtesies will never be effaced.

In offering this hastily constructed resolution for adoption, Mr. President, I beg to say that it involves no idle compliment ; whatever its words, the sentiment exists. After the recent exemplification of how Canadians can entertain, let us warn them that they need not be surprised at any sudden influx of shorthand material seeking to crowd them from their official thrones, but remember, too, that we were solely tempted. Seriously, however, we who were so favored with your hospitality are, as Shakespeare says, glad to "Have measured many a mile to tread a measure with you." We rejoice in your prosperity ; we feel honored in your acquaintance ; we welcome you here. It is a matter of congratulation that geographical and governmental distinctions do not estrange true hearts and warm hands ; that we unite in a common brotherhood with no competitive or other prejudice to embitter. That our allegiance differs but serves

to emphasize this social pleasure and italicise the welcome. It is an especial pleasure to know you and share your friendship, for you gentlemen occupy at least one round higher upon the professional ladder—you note not only an English speaking race, but as readily catch the nimble, idiomatic French tongue, while we, ordinarily, content ourselves with interpretations of the assaults upon our mother dialect. I move the adoption of the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The following paper was presented: "Stroke Vowels in Phonography," by George R. Bishop, of New York.

The Treasurer's report which was accepted showed a balance in the treasury of \$87.75, and closed with the following: "In conclusion allow me to say to the advocates of 'amended spelling' that I received a letter last fall which proved to me, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that it had taken rapid strides in the right direction since our last meeting, as in it one of its foremost defender: spelled 'Catskill' with a *double t*."

The report of the Librarian was presented and accepted, which stated that fifty works on shorthand constituted the library to date, the principal donors being George R. Bishop, of New York, Cornelius Walford, of London, England, S. C. Rodgers, of Troy, N. Y., and E. N. Miner, of New York.

The following stenographers were elected to active membership of the Association: Edward B. Dickinson, New York; H. A. Corell, Elmira; John B. Murray, Delhi; E. N. Miner, New York; Miss Grace M. Cochrane, Rochester; Edwin F. Bishop and Mrs. Elgenia Behrends, Buffalo, C. W. Berry of Richfield Springs. Referred to Examining Committee.

Mr. Rose of Elmira presented the following papers "The Best Mode of Training Stenographic Amanuenses, with a View to Value and Efficiency."

At the evening session Mrs. Burnz of New York gave a talk on Amended Spelling, giving the advance steps in the movement, which was a very interesting and spirited talk and was duly appreciated by all present.

The following paper was presented: A Reportorial—Or a Judicial—Muddle. By George R. Bishop of New York.

Mr. Morrison of Toronto, upon request, entertained the convention with a song.

Mr. Dan Brown of Chicago, Ill., read a very amusing and allegorical paper, "Should Stenographers Marry?"

**SECOND DAY.**

The Committee on Nominations presented the following report, which, on motion was accepted :

President—William H. Slocum, Buffalo.

Vice-President—Henry L. Beach, Binghamton.

Secretary and Treasurer—Harvey Husted, White Plains.

Librarian—Mrs. Eliza B. Burnz, of New York.

Executive Committee—George H. Thornton, Buffalo ; A. W. Caswell, New York ; S. C. Rodgers, Troy ; Miss Jennie Turner, New York ; R. H. Lansing, Rochester.

The following paper was presented : “The Quickest and Best Method of Getting Up Daily Copy.” By C. R. Morgan of Philadelphia, Pa.

President Little, with Mr. Slocum in the chair read the following paper : “The Stenograph.”

Mr. M. M. Bartholomew, the inventor of the Stenograph, being present, replied to Mr. Little, besides giving an exhibition on the Stenograph.

Mr. W. R. Lansing moved that a committee of five be appointed by the President, to report at the next annual meeting, touching the advisability of incorporating the Association and issuing certificates to members, and in support of his motion spoke at considerable length. The motion was carried and the following committee was appointed : Messrs. W. R. Lansing, H. L. Beach, George R. Bishop, George H. Thornton and S. C. Rodgers.

The committee on time and place of next meeting reported the third Tuesday of August, (17th), 1896, at Caldwell, Lake George, Warren County.

**EVENING SESSION.**

The President announced a telegram informing the convention of the death of Miss Mary E. Collins, of New York, an active member of the Association. The President appointed Messrs. Rose, Oppenheim and Slocum to draft appropriate resolutions. The committee subsequently reported as follows, which was adopted.

Whereas, We have received, with deep regret, the sad intelligence of the death of Miss Mary E. Collins, a member of our Association, and a sister-in-law of Mr. George R. Bishop, our former President.

Resolved, That the members of the New York State Stenographers' Association hereby extend to Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, and other relatives of Mrs. Collins, their sincerest sympathy in this bereavement and,

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. George R. Bishop and family.

On motion, the resignation of T. D. Schoonmaker of Goshen, was accepted.

The death of Joseph Cox of Philadelphia, an honorary member, was announced.

The merits of the Paul E. Wirt pen were discussed by the different members of the Association who were using them, all agreeing that it was the best pen upon the market to date.

The following paper was presented : Stenographic Statutes. By S. C. Rodgers of Troy.

Mr. Little, Mr. Slocum in the chair moved to amend article 3, section 2, of the constitution by adding : "No person residing within the State shall be elected to honorary membership in this Association."

Mr. Thornton thought the proposed amendment should be somewhat changed, so as to allow a professional stenographer who is following another business to be an honorary member instead of an active member.

Mr. Little—My proposed amendment is "No person actively engaged in the profession, who is a resident of this State, shall be elected to honorary membership in this Association. (Motion carried.)

The Committee on Topics reported.

Mr. Oppenheim moved a vote of thanks to the retiring officers for the faithfulness with which they performed their duties, and especially to the Secretary and Treasurer. (Motion carried.)

On motion of Mr. Rose the meeting adjourned.

We close our historical sketch, hoping the members will overlook any imperfection and omissions we have made and in the words of one of our former Presidents we say :

"We have met by the healing waters of Saratoga ; we have listened to the thunders of Niagara ; we have climbed the many stairs among the rocks and cascades in the beautiful Glen at Watkins ; we have seen the reflection of our faces on the mirror-like surface of Lake George ; we have sailed among the many islands in the majestic St. Lawrence, and we have once before climbed into these mountains and taken the chances of having our usefulness suspended by a twenty years' nap.

"Each year, as we have taken leave of each other and departed from these meetings, we have felt better equipped for the work of the year, as well as feeling that

another link had been forged in the chain of friendship among us which will last as long as the hand can hold the pen."

Let no member "grow weary in well doing," but let each strive to arrange his or her business, so that all may join in making the meeting of August, 1895, at New York, one of the good old-fashioned meetings of the the years ago; one that will redound to the honor of both officers and members, and through them to the profession at large.

## ACTIVE MEMBERS.

Anderson, William,	- - -	Criminal Court Building, New York City.
Ballantyne, M. Jeanette,	- - -	129 Powers Building, Rochester, N. Y.
Beach, Henry L.,	- - -	Binghamton.
Beard, Frank S.,	- - -	32 Franklin Street, New York City.
Bensley, Mark F.,	- - -	Buffalo.
Bishop, George R.,	- - -	N. Y. Stock Exchange, New York.
Carey, John B.,	- - -	Room 25, Court House, Brooklyn.
Chaffee, Willis G.,	- - -	Oswego.
Charles, W. P.,	- - -	Brooklyn City R. R. Building, Brooklyn.
Cragin, Irving F.,	- - -	2 Erie County Bank Building, Buffalo.
Culver, W. R.,	- - -	Opera House Building, Lockport.
Dickinson, Edw. B.,	- - -	Mills Building, New York.
Dusenbury, Bertra L.,	- - -	52 Wall Street, New York City.
Emens, Etta A.,	- - -	300, 302 Powers Building, Rochester.
Emens, Cora M.,	- - -	300, 302 Powers Building, Rochester.
Gokey, Chas F.,	- - -	150 Nassau Street, New York.
Griffith, Thomas R.,	- - -	409 Powers Building, Rochester.
Hefley, Norman P.,	- - -	Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.
Hill, Kendrick C.,	- - -	117 Duane Street, New York.
Hutchins, Irving C.,	- - -	409 Powers Building, Rochester.
King, Charles F.,	- - -	134 Glen Street, Glens Falls.
Lansing, W. R.,	- - -	District Attorney's Office, Rochester.
Law, Robert R.,	- - -	Cambridge.
Little, Adelbert P.,	- - -	400, 411, 412, 413 Powers Building, Rochester.
Loeb, William, Jr.,	- - -	83 Washington Ave., Albany.
Lyons, Mary E.,	- - -	409 Powers Building, Rochester.
McLoughlin, Peter P.,	- - -	114 Nassau Street, New York.
Miller, Chas. M.,	- - -	The Packard College, New York.
Moore, Sarah A.,	- - -	Advertiser Building, Elmira.
Moynahan, Bartholomew,	- - -	120 Broadway, New York.
Munson, George W.,	- - -	The Rochester Business University, Rochester.
Murray, John B.,	- - -	Delhi.
Needham, J. Gale,	- - -	67 Wall Street, New York.
Norcross, John E.,	- - -	Room 25, Co Court House, Brooklyn.
Nugent, James,	- - -	129 E 50th Street, New York.
Ormaby, Senter H.,	- - -	Mills Building, New York.
Ormaby, Sidney C.,	- - -	Mills Building, New York.
Osgoodby, William W.,	- - -	300 Powers Building, Rochester.
Pagan, C. F. H.,	- - -	11 Prospect Place, Brooklyn.
Porter, Willis H.,	- - -	Court House, Watertown.
Potts, John R.,	- - -	World Building, New York.
Readshaw, Benj. W.,	- - -	128 Bird Avenue, Buffalo.
Ridgway, Miss A. K.,	- - -	145 Broadway, New York.
Rodgers, Spencer C.,	- - -	Tweddle Bldg., Albany, and Mutual Bldg., Troy.
Rose, Theo. C.,	- - -	Robinson Building, Elmira.
Ruso, James M.,	- - -	51, 52, 53 Tweddle Building, Albany.
Shalvey, Edw. J.,	- - -	Criminal Court Building, New York.
Soule, Herbert C.,	- - -	100 Powers Building, Rochester.
Thomas, William M.,	- - -	Attorney-General's Office, Albany.
Thornton, George H.,	- - -	White Building, Buffalo.
Webster, Evan S.,	- - -	320 Potter Building, New York.
White, Mrs. Clara A.,	- - -	Elmira.
Woodle, Leopold,	- - -	6 Wall Street, New York.
Wyckoff, W. O.,	- - -	327 Broadway, New York.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

Bacon, James P.,	9 Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass.
Bartholomew, M. M.,	36 E. 14th Street, New York.
Bender, Charles H.,	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Bengough, Thomas,	Toronto.
Benham, Katharine E.,	Burlington, Vt.
Bennett, J. L.,	81 Clark Street, Chicago:
Bigelow, Timothy,	City Court, Part I., Brooklyn.
Bissell, Miss Frances,	St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Bowman, John G.,	627 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.
Brown, David Wolfe,	1702 Oregon Avenue, Washington.
Burt, Frank,	Boston.
Butcher, Nelson R.,	Toronto.
Crommeline, R. F.,	Harrisburg.
Cross, J. George,	103 State Street, Chicago.
Davies, H. J.,	Cleveland.
Dement, Isaac S.,	323 Dearborn Street, Chicago.
Deming, Philander,	12 Jay Street, Albany.
Deming, Henry C.,	Harrisburg.
Desjardins, Alphonse,	Levis, Canada.
Devine, Andrew,	House of Representatives, Washington.
Dixon, George S.,	124 Lexington Avenue, New York.
Dunlop, N. Stewart,	C. P. R. Offices, Toronto.
Easton, Edw. P.,	Washington.
Fairbanks, F. P.,	New York.
Fritcher, Charles E.,	Williamsport, Pa.
Gage, Jennie A.,	Saginaw, Mich.
Gardiner, Edwin R.,	Providence, R. I.
Gardner, Stanley,	McKeesport, Pa.
Goodner, Ivan W.,	Huron, Dak.
Guy, Charles L.,	Surrogate's Office, New York.
Hayward, Willard L.,	Newark, N. J.
Head, Arthur,	Towanda, Pa.
Hemperley, Francis H.,	603 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Hitchcock, George F.,	Minneapolis.
Horton, E. E.,	Toronto.
Ireland, Fred.,	House of Representatives, Washington.
Johnston, Minnie L.,	Youngstown, O.
Kellogg, George,	744 Broadway, New York.
McGurrin, Frank E.,	Salt Lake City, Utah.
Meigs, Charles H.,	New Haven, Conn.
Meyer, Oscar,	Allentown, Pa.
Mimms, John H.,	St. Albans, Vt.
Mitchell, Robert W.,	Portland, Ore.
Patteson, Mrs. S. Louise,	Cleveland.
Perry, W. W.,	Toronto.
Pinckney, Thomas,	Toronto.
Pitman, Benn,	Phon. Inst., Cincinnati.
Reed, Thomas A.,	37 Cursitor Lane, London, England.
Ritchie, John,	Chicago.
Rockwell, Julius E.,	Washington.
Rockwell, Irving C.,	Chicago.
Shinghaw, D. N.,	Simla Hills, India.
Smith, A. J.,	Manchester, N. H.
Smith, Henry T.,	Toronto.
Squibb, F. J.,	Chicago.
Thornton, William H.,	14 Fargo Avenue, Buffalo.
Tilley, T. J.,	117 W. Sixth Street, Kansas City, Mo.
Van Dyne, Fred.,	Surgeon General's Office, Washington.
Walch, Henry F.,	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Wilson, S. G.,	231 S. Fifth Street, Philadelphia.
Woodworth, W. A.,	Denver.
Wright, William B.,	28 School Street, Boston.
York, E. D.,	Room 613, 44 Broadway, New York.
Zeibig, Julius W.,	Dresden, Saxony.







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New York State  
Stenographers' Association



Twentieth Annual Meeting

1895



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE  
STENOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION,

INCLUDING

PAPERS READ, DISCUSSIONS, ETC.,

AT THE

**Twentieth Annual Meeting,**

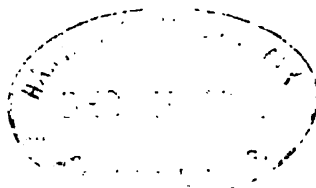
HELD AT THE

**St. Denis Hotel, New York City,**

**AUGUST 22D AND 23D, 1895.**



ELMIRA, N. Y.:  
ADVERTISER ASSOCIATION, PRINTERS.  
1895.



*The Association.*

REPORTED BY  
KENDRICK C. HILL,  
117 DUANE ST.,  
NEW YORK.

# N. Y. S. S. A.

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## TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

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### PROCEEDINGS.

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#### FIRST SESSION.

**T**HE twentieth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at the St. Denis Hotel (Broadway and Eleventh street), New York City, on Thursday and Friday, the 22d and 23d of August, 1895.

The following were present:

#### ACTIVE MEMBERS.

ANDERSON, WILLIAM .....	New York.
BALLANTYNE, MISS M. JEANETTE.....	Rochester.
BIRD, W. NEWTON.....	Floral Park.
COOK, ARTHUR B.....	New York.
EMENS, MISS ETTA A.....	Rochester.
EMENS, MISS CORA M.....	Rochester.
HEFFLEY, NORMAN P.....	Brooklyn.
HILL, KENDRICK C.....	New York.
LAW, ROBERT R.....	Cambridge.
McLOUGHLIN, PETER P.....	New York.
MASON, WM. L.....	New York.
MOORE, MISS SARAH A.....	Elmira.
ORMSBY, SENTER H.....	New York.
ORMSBY, SIDNEY C.....	New York.
PAGAN, C. F. H.....	New York.
SHALVEY, EDWARD J.....	New York.

TOMBO, DR. RUDOLF.....	New York.
WALWORTH, GEORGE S.....	New York.
WHITE, MRS. CLARA A.....	Elmira.
WOODLE, LEOPOLD.....	New York.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

BARTHOLOMEW, M. M.....	New York.
BUTCHER, NELSON R.....	Toronto.
GARDINER, EDWIN R.....	Providence.
HEMPERLEY, FRANCIS H.....	Philadelphia.
MCEWAN, OLIVER.....	London.

There were also present the following New York City stenographers: MRS. ELIZA B. BURNZ, MISS SARAH L. BREWER, MAURICE HANWAY, ISAAC R. MOUNT, W. B. SALTER, CHANDLER SEXTON, J. HARRY THOMPSON.

There were also in attendance, at the various sessions, Associated Press, United Press, and other newspaper reporters, to all of whom the Association is indebted for able and faithful accounts of the convention in the daily press.

Thursday, August 22d, at 11 o'clock A. M., in the absence of President King, the convention was called to order by Vice-President Heffley, whose admirable address follows:

VICE-PRESIDENT HEFFLEY—*Members of the Association:*

In the absence of the President the by-laws make it obligatory upon the Vice-President, provided he is present, to assume the duties and prerogatives of the President. Most unfortunately to-day the President is absent and the Vice-President is present. Would that a reversal of the case were possible, or, at least, that the President were present.

As I have had the honor for the past year of being known far and near as the Vice-President of this association, it is my privilege, as well as my duty, to preside during the absence of our worthy President. This duty I reluctantly assume, knowing full well that my efforts must be feeble when I consider the number of able parliamentarians who have presided over our past destinies with such grace, tact, and impartiality. My reluctance is further intensified in view of the fact that there are several matters of paramount importance which should, and most likely will, engage our attention. I deem these matters not only of great moment to



the continued existence of this association, but to the continued existence, and honor, and welfare of the shorthand profession.

Thirteen years ago, at this same hotel, it was my pleasure and profit to attend for the first time a meeting of this association. At that time I had the honor of being elected honorary member. I believe prior to that time active membership in the association was limited to stenographers outside of New York City. Whether or not Brooklyn (my home then as now) was included in the proscribed district, I do not recall. At any rate I was not taken "into the fold," but was permitted to sit on the fence, as it were, and look down upon the chosen few, somewhat analogous to the base-ball enthusiast who has not the price of admission and, therefore, is debarred from the pleasure of witnessing the exciting game from a comfortable seat on the "bleachers."

I cannot but help to contrast the stenographic situation to-day with that of thirteen years ago, or with that of twenty-five years ago, when I first knew shorthand. Thirteen years ago comparatively few amanuenses were employed in the state of New York, and I venture to say that there were but few who brought discredit upon the name. At that time there were about as many "officials" in this state as there are to-day. Then, they were an honored body, being not only held in high esteem by the bench, the bar, and the box, but were also an inspiration to the amanuensis as well. To-day amanuenses are numbered by the thousands, and, as we all know, or think we know, a large percentage may be classed in the category of incompetents. The "official" to-day is at the mercy of the petty politician and place hunter, and he knows not at what moment he may be summarily dismissed, and his position given to some one of inferior, or of even no stenographic ability.

These statements are not fictitious. They are too plainly in evidence almost daily to be doubted. How is it with the reform judges of this city, and especially with the arch-reformer, Judge Goff? How is it in the great reform city across the big bridge? Things are becoming quite chaotic over there. In this connection I trust you will allow a digression, and permit me to read from a leading editorial in the Brooklyn *Eagle* of last week, and from which you may draw your own inferences:

"A majority of newspaper men know what shorthand writing

is, even if they do not write it with facility enough to take down the words of a fluent speaker. Commonly they can read their own writing after they have been to a lecture, or a sermon, or an oration, or an important meeting. If they made glaring misreports they would not long find employment. In shops and factories and offices where stenographers are employed the same accuracy is demanded; otherwise the business would fall into confusion. Yet in our lower courts, where grave issues are sometimes tried, or at least originated, and which represent an important branch of the public service, politicians have for years been employed as stenographers who can neither write shorthand nor read it if they try to write it.

"When we engage an engineer we require that he shall know a few facts about engines. We demand that our tailor shall know something about cloth and the cutting of it. Yet here in court, where thousands of men and women are brought to answer for crime or to be exonerated from the charge, are men whose qualifications for the position they hold are an ability to hustle and 'heel' at primary elections, and to drive about the ward in the interest of certain statesmen. There are men in this city who have accepted the place of court stenographer who did not know the alphabet of stenography. This is no general charge. The specific cases are known. Some of these men learned to write. Others did not. Some courts receive honest service, and in the higher courts the stenographers are all competent.

"When the Henry murder case was to be tried, on Tuesday, there was a delay because the official stenographer of the police court could not read his own notes. Now the question arises, how does a man like that get into his place without examination by the civil service authorities? And if he had been examined, how did he pass? Is it the place of Brooklyn to furnish money support to pretense and incompetency? The man who could not read his notes might have made an efficient clerk, or assistant clerk—a wholly superfluous and political office—or a warrant server, but it is plain that he is not eligible to the place he holds. Now that he is known to be ineligible, will he continue to ask the city to pay him for work that he cannot do?"

In the light of these statements what shall be done? As Grover would say, "It is not a theory, but a condition that confronts us." Now, what are we going to do about it? What are the "officials" going to do about it, not only to protect themselves, but to protect the honor, the integrity, and the future welfare of the profession, for profession it is as much as that of the law, or medicine, and its practitioners must be protected in the same manner that the practitioners of other professions are protected. Again, the public must be protected, notwithstanding the statement imputed to Mr. Vanderbilt.

The time for action is at hand. Shall we act? Is the person who

wishes to do any character of law reporting to be a man of standing and ability, or is the profession of law reporting to decay and the reporter's position to become the prey of every scheming politician or cut-rate incompetent? This association must decide the question.

One more point and I will not further detain you. We all believe that a sound body is necessary for a sound mind, but we do not all appreciate that a sound bank account is essential for a sound association of persons, and that stenographic associations are no exception to the rule. How are our finances? How have they been each year for the past twenty years? They certainly have not been, at all times, in a satisfactory condition. We must, and can also decide this question. I am quite sure that our earnest and efficient Secretary-Treasurer feels that this question of finance is vital to our association, and that remedial measures should be adopted.

It seems to me that these, and kindred questions, should have the careful consideration of this association. With these few preliminary remarks, we declare the twentieth annual meeting ready for such business as may be presented.

The calling of the roll and the reading of the minutes of the last meeting (the same being in print) were dispensed with.

#### ADDRESSES BY MESSRS. GARDINER, HEMPERLEY AND McEWAN.

Chairman Heffley suggested the propriety of preliminary remarks from honorary members and visiting friends, and first called on Mr. Edwin R. Gardiner of Providence, whose reportorial attainments and scholarly gifts, combined, rank him as one of the twelve leading stenographers of the United States.

MR. GARDINER: Your summons, Mr. Chairman, takes me entirely by surprise, for I have but this moment arrived in your city. I had no idea of saying anything here, but came merely to listen. It has chanced that I have been chosen President of the New England Association for the current year, and I assure you, personally and officially, that our society has the highest appreciation of the friendship of this body, with which it has had such pleasant and intimate relations. Our members are greatly pleased with the alliance which has been formed for the interchange of publications. From the perusal of your annual reports we have

derived great benefit. We recognize with gratitude the value of the work you are doing in the creation and circulation of sound, healthful and high-grade literature in connection with the art of shorthand writing. The essays you have published for many years we have read with profound attention, and rejoice that so many able pens have been employed in illustrating the many phases of a pursuit followed and esteemed by so many thousands throughout our country. The members of the New England Society have been personally known to me for a number of years, and I cannot do otherwise than bear testimony here that they comprise a most estimable body of men, and that their professional attainments are of the very highest order. I know of no class in our section of the country who are doing a more creditable work in a more efficient and praiseworthy manner. The mutual respect which these two bodies now have for one another will grow with their growth and deepen with the progress of time. The warm personal friendships that have been established in so many cases, and the pleasant acquaintanceships formed on so many business and social occasions, constitute a bond which we particularly recognize at these anniversaries. I am not prepared with any address, but am very happy to meet you all and to extend to you the hearty greetings of my society. The day is remarkably pleasant and the occasion promises a rare degree of social and literary enjoyment.

CHAIRMAN: We also have with us to-day Mr. Francis H. Hemperley, a well-known stenographer of Philadelphia, and also editor of *The Stenographer*. I am sure Mr. Hemperley, in view of his long acquaintance with shorthand and interest in the profession, will have a few remarks to make.

MR. HEMPERLEY: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Association: I do not know that I am exactly situated at this time to my advantage, in being called upon at the very outset of the meeting to follow in the train of the very interesting remarks of the Vice-President, presiding. I feel embarrassed, in the first place, in view of the fact that this is the first time I have had the honor of being with you. I have long known the New York State Stenographers' Association and of its reputation, and I have always had a very high respect for it, but, as connected with

stenographic publications, and from association with stenographers, I have had a sort of instinctive perception of the fact that there have been a few hard workers who have held up this honor and reputation; and that, with you, as with most organizations, when you come to get down to the core of the matter, it will be found the responsibility rests upon a few.

So, when I came here this morning, while, in imagination, I saw the stenographers of the whole state of New York traveling towards the metropolis—full of courage—animated with zeal to glorify their profession and sacrifice themselves, if need be, for its welfare—I find, as I wend my way through the corridors of the St. Denis, a (little) back parlor, with the scanty sunlight struggling through the window, and, in one corner, a group of brave ladies (who almost outnumber the gentlemen and, perhaps, outweigh them); the plucky Secretary at his desk, through whose earnest and eloquent persuasiveness I wish to attribute my presence here this morning, and a few of the old, well-known names represented by gentlemen sitting around us.

And so I realize that “it is not all gold that glitters” in the way of reputation; I realize that it is the earnest, honest, hardworking members who keep the wheels moving, and I wish, therefore, to personally congratulate you for what you have done in the past to keep your banner floating, and for what you are evidently aiming to do now to keep your standard well to the fore.

The serious, practical questions, as has been hinted at in the remarks of the Vice-President, are deserving of your most careful consideration, and I sincerely trust that you will be able to handle them in such a way as to secure the objects you are aiming at.

I regret the absence of some of your older members this morning, whom I hoped to have the pleasure of meeting. I do not know how long I can stay with you. I may have to go back to Philadelphia this evening, because of the peculiar combination which I made when I came. I was not sure that I could get over here at all, although I was strongly urged to come by my own desires and the invitation which I received; but, being a firm believer in the merits of Home Rule, stating the facts of the case to the home ruler, my good wife, she said she thought she would let me go if I would bring her with me, and that involved bringing a friend

along, and so the ladies are out investigating the "bargains" of the New York stores, etc. Of course, that involves responsibilities on my part which will probably oblige me somewhat to curtail excursions in other directions.

I had thought I should like to say something serious to you, because, notwithstanding the lightness of the vein in which I have been speaking, I assure you that I do, occasionally, feel seriously. I do like to say things that are of some interest to people and worthy of being recorded, although such ambitions are not always gratified. I knew that I could not say anything to add to your expertness in your profession as stenographers, and, thinking over the matter, it occurred to me that possibly I might be able to give you something, which is so freely distributed on almost all occasions, i. e., good advice, and which the givers thereof are so frequently themselves derelict in observing. You know how easy it is to preach and how hard to practice. I was forcibly reminded of that the other day, in looking over the comic illustrations of that German Puck or Judge, *Fliegende Blaetter*, in which the professor of logic, rhetoric and mental science of a German University, had returned to his home and remarked to his wife that he had just made an important engagement to deliver an address on the "Rational Use of the Memory," and wound up by saying: "Now, Elize! my dear, don't let me forget it!"

It struck me that the old German professor had the same difficulty that we all experience—it is very easy for us to talk, but hard to put into action. Notwithstanding that, I am going to venture to read to you a very few words which I had prepared, thinking I would not be able to come, and which I had hoped to have your secretary read to you.

"IN HOC SIGNO VINCES."

Tradition tells us that, as the Emperor Constantine found his battle with the barbarians going against him, he cast his eyes upward towards the clouds which enshrouded the heavens and saw, in outlines of fire, the sacred symbol of the cross blazing through the darkness, and, with his soul aroused by the magical sign, he pointed his soldiers toward it, exclaiming, "In Hoc Signo Vinctes," and, with renewed zeal, they rushed forward to a magnificent victory.

All along the descending years of the ages of darkness, men have realized, as they struggled with the contending hosts of

ignorance and of evil, the necessity of encouragement, in their efforts to stand for the right, of some extraordinary illumination from the realms above the natural horizon of mere intellectual acquirements.

The mastery of mind over matter is, indeed, most marvelous; but the power of love over mind is still more remarkable.

The cross of Christianity stands out upon the dark clouds of evil and falsehood as a symbol of the love of God for man—a love which was willing to lay down the inherited, natural life in order that, by obedience to the principles of the divine nature, the power and great glory of divinity might be brought down to, and united with, humanity, so that there might be forever the omnipotence of God with us in all our struggles to rise from earth to Heaven.

The predominant element of to-day in the great conflict of spiritual forces, is that which is holding up to men the necessity of embodying the essential principles of heaven in their life; "To do unto others as we would have them do unto us," is being recognized as the key to all real success. Many of our leading business princes are acting upon the motives which are taught in the Golden Rule.

This is the sign of the cross in the clouds. "In this sign," said the Emperor to his soldiers, "ye shall conquer."

And by what this sign represents to-day in the world, those who appreciate its significance and follow its guiding, shall conquer the only success which is calculated to give satisfaction to all the faculties of man.

Members of the New York State Stenographers' Association, leading representatives of the profession in the United States, who have a record in the past most enviable for meritorious achievements, as you are assembled to-day, permit me, as one who feels a deep interest in the genuine welfare of the members of the profession throughout the whole land, to urge upon you, and through you upon the great army of earnest practitioners, that it is not only necessary to be qualified to fight in this battle of life with the intelligence of the understanding and the trained deftness of the physical endowment, but that, above all, it is essentially requisite that there shall be a genuine love of the underlying principles of right, of uprightness of living, of fair dealing with one another in all kinds of business relations, of truthfulness, of honor, of integrity and of fraternal affection, which are embodied in and symbolized by the sacred cross of Constantine.

Stenographers! Let us lay aside our petty divisions, springing from slight differences in the character of our weapons; let us lay aside all our inclinations to take advantage of the weaknesses of our fellows; let us unite in striving to be men and women, good and true; faithful, honest and honorable, as well as competent exponents of our profession, and I assure you, by the prophetic certainty which is founded upon the immutable principles of goodness and truth, that in this sign we shall conquer.

VICE-PRESIDENT HEFFLEY: We also have with us this morning Mr. Oliver McEwan of England—an old shorthand writer, well

known abroad as well as in this country, and editor of a weekly and a monthly periodical.

Mr. McEWAN responded as follows:

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I think my position would be best expressed in the words of Shakespeare, slightly altered, viz.: "My business in the state—of New York—made me a looker-on here."

I did not expect when I came here to find that there would be very much in common between shorthand writers in America and those in England, but I am agreeably surprised to find that there is a great deal more of brotherly feeling on the part of the shorthand writers of America for those in England than some of those across the Atlantic believe to exist.

I am also surprised to find, from the remarks of your president, that there exists amongst shorthand writers in America that great evil—mediocrity. In England we suffer much from the incompetent shorthand writers, who attempt practical work long before they have acquired a practical knowledge of stenography. This inefficiency exists chiefly, I might say wholly, amongst the lower class of stenographers—the commercial class—and it very seriously affects the interest of efficient shorthand writers, and I presume the effect is the same here from what I have seen of the advertisements in your daily papers. It is difficult for competent shorthand writers to obtain the full value for their services, while the services of the incompetent are offered for so many shillings a week; and the efficient shorthand writers have too often to choose between idleness and the starvation wage. Yet, it is but a few years ago that salaries of £4 to £5 a week were easily commanded. This unsatisfactory state of things is created by some of the schools in England, and especially in London, turning out those who can neither write shorthand properly, nor read their notes accurately.

But I apprehend that the remarks of your President apply, not so much to commercial stenographers, as to professional and official shorthand writers. If that is so, I am glad to say that we in England are better off than you are in America. England is proud of its professional shorthand writers. Such a thing as mediocrity, or incompetency, amongst English professional shorthand writers is



almost unknown, and, indeed, would not be tolerated for a day amongst official reporters. Amongst the shorthand writers employed in the Houses of Parliament are the Gurney family, who occupy the first place in England, and who are so able as to take down the most rapid evidence. And in commissions, especially commissions dealing with abuses, the evidence is often given by ladies who speak very rapidly; yet every word is recorded. But, not only is the Gurney shorthand writer able to read his own notes, as a matter of fact so accurately are they written that he is never required to transcribe them himself, for every half-hour, or hour, a messenger takes away his notes to be transcribed by others who have not heard the evidence.

The same applies to all other branches of official and law court reporting. Only the very best men are employed, and receive the very best pay.

Amongst newspaper reporters the same high state of efficiency exists; members of Parliament, and other public speakers, all constantly praise them for the excellent way in which they report their speeches. If an "inaccuracy" does occur, it is because the reporter has endeavored to turn a bad speech into a good one.

I think, with Mr. Hemperley, that these abuses may be reformed, and that the cure of incompetency is a work that may be well undertaken by an association such as this.

But I do not wish to detain you with any lengthy remarks. I am a stranger in your city, and somewhat overcome with the surprise with which I have viewed your big buildings and the bustle of your busy life. I thank the members for the kind way in which they have received me this morning, and I trust that in the future the association will prosper more than ever.

MR. McLOUGHLIN.—Before proceeding, I would move that the thanks of the association be extended to these gentlemen who have addressed the convention—Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Hemperley and Mr. McEwan—for their kindness in attending this meeting and for the remarks which they have made.

Carried.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

The Secretary read the following letter from President King, expressing regret on account of unavoidable absence:

GLKES FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 30, 1895.

*My Dear Friend Hill:*

Your favor of 13th inst. from Portland was duly received. I am very sorry to say that I cannot be at the meeting this year. But you have an excellent Vice-President, and, on the whole, I rather think the association will be the gainer by my not being there. I have jotted down a few thoughts, which I enclose, but beg you will not dignify it by calling it an "address."

I hope you will have a large and successful meeting, and that you will come to Lake George next year.

In haste, yours very sincerely,

C. F. KING.

President King's able discourse upon the shorthand situation was read by Vice-President Hefley, as follows:

*Members of the Association:*

This is the twentieth annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association, and that means that nearly one-fifth of a century has rolled by since the association was organized. During that time the art of shorthand writing has spread most amazingly. Schools have been established, have flourished, and are now considered as much a part of the institutions of learning of the country as business schools or special schools of any kind. Shorthand is being used by all business people of any importance and by professional people, while its literary value has been and is being impressed upon composition of all kinds. Could a more marked contrast be presented in any line than the condition of this art when this society started and at the time of this meeting? While the association has not had such a membership as it ought, and the attendance at the meetings has been too small, if we compare it with other organizations "similarly situated," we find that it has accomplished much that is good, certainly has done nothing that has been radically or even apparently wrong, and is remembered by those who have stood by it through its vicissitudes with reverence and pleasure. I think the most valuable thing connected with its history has been the papers presented at its meetings and published in its annual proceedings. I have contributed almost nothing to them, and, therefore, feel at liberty to say that there have been among those papers articles of rare merit, not only interesting and valuable to the stenographer, but to the world at large; and some,

I would go so far as to say, have not been surpassed in my reading experience by similar articles in any proceedings of any other class of societies. I speak of them with something of the feeling with which the traveler views a noted painting or some famous scenery; that feeling which rises in us that we wish others could share the benefit and pleasure which they impart; because I feel that so few of those who would enjoy and profit not only by reading and studying those articles, but by hearing and discussing them, evidently pay no attention to them, and do not seem to care whether there is any merit in them or not.

It has always been a source of great regret that so few stenographers have attended the past meetings of the association; but I have had great hopes, since our enthusiastic Secretary has been doing so much to arouse interest in it, that we might have larger meetings, and hence have greater influence and do more good. We may possibly solace ourselves as David Copperfield did by saying, when some one remarked that his Dora was quite small: "All the more precious." But I am sure there is not the slightest feeling of exclusiveness; and I feel justified in saying that the mass of stenographers of the city and state are making a mistake in not rallying around the association, and by that very act making it a popular success.

I believe the only loss we have sustained this year is in the death of our distinguished brother member, Mr. Wyckoff, and with a feeling that what I might say would be too incomplete in one who had so slight a personal acquaintance with him, I leave to those who knew him better the duty of appropriately commemorating his life and character.

During the year the adoption of the new State Constitution was expected to throw out of employment some of the court stenographers in the cities of the state, but I understand their services, in most instances, were retained, and that none of them will suffer in the end. I have had no fear of stenographers being injured by employment being taken away from them. I think, of all the trades or professions, none is more secure and none less likely to be filled successfully than ours. It does not take long to become a carpenter or even a physician; but the stenographer who can do his work swiftly and accurately must spend years in study and prac-

tice: and is at this time of crowded ranks, comparatively speaking, more rare than ever. The large increase in the numbers of the incompetent makes the competent more in demand.

For years there has been some agitation of the question of having this association incorporated and a standard established of the competency of stenographers. I think it is only a question of time when this will come about. The importance of competency, or rather the danger of incompetency, in medicine and in surgery, in the ministry and in law, in dentistry, and even in making prescriptions or plumbing, has caused those different branches to be protected, or rather the public protected from them, and it has been thought necessary or proper that diplomas or licenses in some form be required before practitioners in them be let loose upon the world. Can there be any question but that many times the work of the stenographer embraces matters of as great importance as any in the lines I have mentioned? In a court of justice, for instance, a man is on trial for his life, and before the close of the trial there is a dispute in regard to a certain witness's testimony. The accurate portrayal of the language and the meaning of that witness's evidence may determine the fate of the prisoner. Or there is a litigation over matters involving, perhaps, hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars, and it very often occurs that the stenographer's minutes have to decide very important questions connected with that litigation. Ask the man who is being tried or the parties to the suit if they care whether the stenographer in their cases is a proficient one or the reverse? The question as stated seems absurd. And yet to-day there is nothing except the presumably honest and good judgment of the appointing judge, who cannot and does not make any examination of the competency of the stenographer to stand between the public and a possibility of fatal error. A course of study should be required and a diploma from some proper school, or a license from some body competent to scrutinize the proficiency of stenographers, before the stenographer is allowed to practice in any place or case where reliability may determine questions of large import. For this reason, and for the reason that some action was taken at the last meeting toward having this matter brought to the attention of the association, I would especially urge upon the members present that they take hold of this subject and have some decisive action taken.

I have always regretted that the only meeting of the year comes in vacation time. It is as hard for the overworked stenographer to leave his quiet retreat and interest himself or herself, even to the extent of attending a meeting where business or work is likely to be alluded to, as it is for those who are members of professions which do not need to do hard work. If anybody needs rest it is pre-eminently a stenographer. Hence I have suggested before, and now beg to be allowed to make one more suggestion, that the association hold another meeting for business, a mid-winter session if thought best, or at such time as would be most likely to ensure a large attendance, at which meeting all matters of business could be attended to, there would be more time for discussion, and the members would feel more like taking hold thoroughly. I simply make this as a suggestion, but I believe an amendment to the constitution will be necessary to accomplish it.

It seems very opportune that this meeting is held in New York City. So large a portion of the stenographers of the state reside here, or have their business here, any state association must and has the right to depend upon their support, and if there could be any time when it was more for the interest of the city stenographer to become identified with the state association, it is now. Organization in these days is all-important to any class of individuals; and with the occurrence of some things in the city the past year, which will no doubt be considered at this meeting, no one can doubt but that concentrated action on the part of stenographers is now quite important. What better ground-work can there be for a strong, aggressive and healthy organization among stenographers than the present state association? But it must be sustained and supported by the stenographers of the city and state in order to make it and keep it such a successful society as the Empire State deserves. I would earnestly urge upon every member present the importance of keeping its welfare in mind, and not only at all times taking every opportunity to advertise it among stenographers and advance its interests in any way which may present itself, but to put forth special effort to give it a boom among the city stenographers at this time.

Having penned these few desultory thoughts with the expectation of presenting them myself, I regret to find that it will be im-

possible for me to attend the meeting this year, and I am obliged to send them along without opportunity for revision, in the hope that some of the suggestions may be of profit to the meeting, and I also send my warmest wishes for a successful and pleasant gathering, knowing that the association is in good hands among the other officers, and that if there is only a large attendance, success is thereby assured. May the result of the meeting be worthy of the city in which it is held.

#### FORFEITURES FOR MEMBERSHIP.

**THE SECRETARY:** Acting upon the written authorization of the members of the Executive Committee, the Secretary placed upon the list of active members, just previous to publication of our last proceedings, the following names:

WM. ANDERSON, FRANK S. BRAND, BENJAMIN L. DUNKENBURY, GEORGE W. MITCHELL, JOSEPH E. NORCROSS, SEYMOUR H. ORMSBY, SEYMOUR C. ORMSBY, C. F. H. PAGAN, HERBERT C. SOULE, EVAN S. WENTZEL.

With a single exception, these persons have paid their dues for 1894-95. It is appropriate, at this time, for the association, to receive and welcome these members into our association, and I trust that a motion to that effect will be made.

**MISS BALLANTYNE:** I move that these ten persons be received as active members of our association.

Seconded and carried.

**THE SECRETARY:** Our esteemed fellow-member, Mr. Wm. Loeb, Jr., whose absence we greatly regret, requests me to propose for active membership the following well-known stenographers:

David S. Brice, Surrogate's Court, Albany Co.; Alfred S. Brolley, Court of Appeals, Albany; Allan R. MacDonald, State Department of Public Instruction, Albany; John P. Martin, Watertown; Lucius A. Waldo, Albany.

Mr. P. P. McLoughlin, under date of July 25th, requests me to present for active membership the name of Charles W. Balch, of New York City.

Permit me to propose for active membership the following named persons for membership in our society:

E. N. Miner, New York City; Prof. W. L. Mason, New York

City; Dr. Rudolf Tombo, New York City; Major A. W. Lowe, Mexico, N. Y.; W. Newton Bird, Floral Park, N. Y.; E. Darwin Smith, 409 Powers building, Rochester, N. Y.; D. J. Cleary, official reporter, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; Miss Claribel Teller, Seneca Falls; Harold Eyre, New York City; H. B. Hall, of New York City; F. W. Craig, New York City; Robt. R. Tuttle, New York City; Arthur B. Cook, New York City; James E. Munson, New York City.

To some of you the secretary has spoken or written these emphatic words: "We should have at least twenty new active members at the twentieth annual meeting," and Mr. Munson's is the twentieth name on the list.

Miss Ballantyne proposed the name of Oliver McEwan for honorary membership.

SECRETARY HILL: On our roll of honorary members I have noted, with surprise the absence of a name which should be held in highest regard by the shorthand profession, and I take great pleasure in presenting to this association, for honorary membership, the name of Sir Isaac Pitman, of Bath, England.

With our thoughts upon our honorary list of members, I would propose the name of Jerome B. Howard, of Cincinnati, for honorary membership.

The secretary also proposed the name of George S. Walworth, of New York, for active membership.

The chairman referred the nominations to a Committee on Admission of New Members, to report thereon at a later session.

#### REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER.

Secretary-Treasurer Hill submitted the following financial statement and report for the year ending August 22nd, 1895:

*To the Officers, Executive Committee, and Members of N. Y. S. S. A.:*

In rendering a somewhat extended *bi*-report, I hope you will not regard me in the light of an irrepressible youth who is magnifying the importance and functions of the office he has occupied during the past year, by your courtesy and charity.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Receipts.*

Dues of fifty active members for 1894 . . . . .	\$250 00	
Dues of two active members for 1893 . . . . .	6 00	
Donation of Mr. A. L. Woodward . . . . .	3 00	
Sale of proceedings . . . . .	30 25	
A. D. Maltz. M. D., 1 copy . . . . .	\$ 50	
Geo. R. Seiffert, 9 copies . . . . .	4 50	
The Photo. Inst. Co., 94 copies . . . . .	21 00	
W. H. Schuman, dealer, 1 copy . . . . .	25	
John G. Bowman, 12 copies . . . . .	3 00	
Jan. H. McGarry, 1 copy . . . . .	50	
F. M. Ashbaugh, 1 copy . . . . .	50	
		<hr/> \$289 25

*Expenditures.*

1894.

Sept. 6, Expressage on account book and receipts from Miss Etta A. Emens . . . . .	\$ 25
Oct. 3, Postage on letterheads to officers and members of executive committee . . . . .	89
Oct. 30, A. Brandt's bill for printing 1,000 let- terheads . . . . .	6 75
Oct. 25, Mr. Spencer C. Rodgers (return of loan to the association). . . . .	50 00
Nov. 10, Miss Etta A. Emens for services report- ing proceedings, two years . . . . .	30 00

1895.

Apr. 23, Expressage on 25 proceedings from Miss Ballantyne . . . . .	45
Apr. 26, John P. Smith Printing House, bill for 750 copies of proceedings . . . . .	122 00
Apr. 25, A. T. Mallon & Co., bill for typewriting . . . . .	1 50
May 4, A. T. Mallon & Co., bill for typewriting . . . . .	1 50
May 9, A. Brandt's bill for printing 200 letter- heads . . . . .	2 00
June 5, Chapman & Bloomer's bill for 400 invi- tations and envelopes . . . . .	7 25
July 4, Pad letter paper . . . . .	25
July 22, Postage to date . . . . .	26 08
Aug. 21, Telegrams to Bishop and Rose . . . . .	97
July 19, Miss Ballantyne's bill to date . . . . .	26 03
	<hr/> \$275 92
Balance . . . . .	<hr/> \$18 33

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Proceedings of 1894 have been mailed by the Librarian, to the active members of the following associations, to the extent of 250 copies:



New England Shorthand Reporters' Association.....	28
Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association of Ontario.	60
Indiana State Stenographers' Association.....	42
Iowa State Stenographers' Association.....	85
Michigan State Law Stenographers' Association. ....	87
Total .....	252

Nearly 100 copies have been mailed to well-known New York state stenographers whose names, we regret to say, are not at present on the roll of active members.

The Secretary has aimed to keep in touch with the main body by statedly sending out circular letters, containing matter relative to the association and the profession, besides writing very many personal letters.

A great deal of paper-and-postage ammunition has been used with seemingly poor effect, by the Secretary, in his efforts to secure new members. But not every shot can be expected to tell—nor even one in ten for that matter. Wherein we have been successful let us be thankful; wherein we have thus far failed, let us resolutely press toward the mark of larger membership.

The Secretary has acted throughout the year upon the practical truth that "Advertising pays."

Our proceedings have been widely scattered—let us hope wisely, too.

An unbroken correspondence has been kept up with the officers of various similar shorthand societies and with stenographers throughout the state.

The association has been brought to the attention of the profession generally, through lengthy articles and less lengthy items, in the shorthand magazines.

Four hundred invitations to the 20th Annual Convention were sent out to well-known stenographers.

Two meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the year, both at the Official Stenographers' rooms in the Criminal Court Building, New York City, *in re* legislation affecting stenographers, at Albany, but it was deemed advisable not to make public what transpired thereat.

#### A SCORE OF SUGGESTIONS.

1. That thrift is essential to prosperity, perpetuity and power. That this vigorous growth, as of a plant, we may attain as an association, if we will, and this should be *our aim*.

2. That, therefore, our aim should be to establish the association on a firm and flourishing financial foundation. "*Thrift* is the best means of thriving," is a significant saying; and the surest sign of an association's permanency and progressiveness is a *thrift-box*.

3. That with the accomplishment of this important purpose in full view the annual dues should be \$5.00 for several years to come at least. When we say that the payment of this sum annually into the treasury will serve as a guarantee of our association's standing success, we do not believe there can be any one in our company as poor in spirit as not to cheerfully acquiesce.

4. That our aim being the promotion and protection of the best interests of shorthand writers of the state of New York, and through that channel of these United States as well, we should rightly regard the duty of active membership as positive, not passive. Having thus given recognition to individual duty, it should be our individual aim to bring our active membership up to the century mark—and then above and beyond it.

5. That, having the welfare of the stenographers of the country and continent at heart, as well as those of our own state and association, we should, with renewed zeal, continue the good work already begun in exchanging proceedings with other like associations, and in opening up further communication with them.

6. That, if these associations, including our own, strive to thrive in these closing years of a mighty and miraculous century (one of the seven great wonders of which has been the forward march of stenography), we contemplate co-operation with said associations with a view to bringing about a National or North American convention of stenographers in 1900, in lieu of the various annual meetings of that year.

7. That we consider the advisability of becoming a corporate body.

8. That we copyright the proceedings; get them from the press promptly; solicit proposals for same on basis of 1,000 copies; place on sale at different points; in fact, by the exercise of proper management try to realize profits sufficient to pay for the publication thereof.

9. That the price of proceedings should be 25c., instead of 50c. as heretofore, in order to increase their circulation and secure a wider dissemination of our doctrines and teachings.

10. That, when a reserve fund of \$500.00 has been set aside an initiation fee of \$5.00 or \$10.00 shall be charged.

11. That proceedings should be sent out flat, instead of rolled.

12. That the constitution and by-laws should constitute a part of the published proceedings from year to year, or, if not, then every other year.

13. That the individual active members, having in view the increasing success of the association, should throughout the year heartily co-operate with the Secretary-Treasurer, by prompt payment of annual dues, by sending in names of stenographers eligible to membership, etc.; and that it shall be the duty of active members to further the interests of the association in other ways, as opportunity offers, as far as possible.

14. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to *actively* labor for the success of our association, with an eye to its financial status, earnestly endeavoring to gather in new active members, co-operating with officers, committees, and the main body, in their efforts to organize more thoroughly and strengthen the association, publish and distribute proceedings, have successful and highly interesting annual meetings, etc.

15. That we should always act on the positive and potent saying, "In Union There is Strength."

16. That our association should aim to demonstrate to the world the momentous truth concerning us, that intelligence is indispensable to efficiency and success in shorthand writing—that lack of intelligence signifies woful incompetency and an unwarranted assumption of the name *stenographer* on the part of the person thus lacking; and that the world should be taught to know that this precious pearl intelligence justly commands and righteously demands *value received* for able services rendered and required in the field of professional phonography, as it does in any other occupation, the foundation of which is skill, the structure of which is more skill, and the successful practice of which requires most skill.

17. That results of present labor are not necessarily for time present, but time to come—results are the revelation of the future.

A single illustration will suffice:

The fifty-six immortal signers of the Declaration of Independence were humble, common people (one of whom lies buried in a little country churchyard, back in New Jersey, where my folks

worshiped and I was brought up), and they could form no adequate conception, nor even dream, of the momentousness of their mighty work wrought out in that American Magna Charta, and its effect upon the future fortunes of 70,000,000 people one century later, and perhaps 400,000,000 people two centuries after them.

So we, if faithful and true stenographers, may, in like manner, be blessed and honored by those of our profession who follow after us.

18. That, as an association, we should present and publish a platform from year to year, embodying our principles and purposes, addressed to the stenographers of the commonwealth, country, continent and world, incorporating concisely in the same our views on professional matters, our greetings to other like associations and desire to affiliate and co-operate with them, etc., etc.

19. That, if we admit the reasonableness of these suggestions—or any portion of them—we should earnestly and diligently proceed along these lines to revive and rejuvenate afresh the association, to the end that it may continue many years to grow with its growth and strengthen with its strength—and that it may *not* lapse into a state of innocuous desuetude and die a *not-much-to-be-regretted* death. That life—honorable and useful life—we should strive after for the association as a society, as we do for ourselves as the individual members thereof; and the character of N. Y. S. S. A. should be to all of its members an object of sincere solicitude and deep and lasting interest, as is their own good name of the persons comprising it.

20. That these suggestions do not carry with them any imputation of lack of duty on the part of any of us, who have served the association in the capacity of officers, members of committees or active members; but that, as “pilgrims after perfection,” we verily know that *there is always plenty of room for improvement!*

KENDRICK C. HILL,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

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11. That proceedings:

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN FOR 1895.

Another year has rounded its circuit and again the Librarian is called upon to make her report to the N. Y. S. S. A. This has been an eventful year in the history of the library in the way of accessions.

First—Old-time proceedings came, pouring in from all parts of the state, packed in boxes of all kinds, shapes and sizes, filled to overflowing with annuals containing the chronicled events of by-gone days of the association, so dear to the hearts of many of us. (In a whisper, be it said), one of its members became entirely familiar with both quantity and quality, concerning their style and appearance, for every way her eye would turn, she could see,—Proceedings, Proceedings, Proceedings. At one time, she became somewhat fearful that a serious brain trouble would be the result, before she could properly store them away in the place which, at last, was prepared for their safe deposit. Had it not been for the strong, abiding love which the Librarian feels toward advancing the interests of the association, she would have found her duties, many times, irksome in the superlative degree. Loves rules the world, we are told, and your Librarian has succumbed to the "Inevitable" and has, therefore, performed her duties in as faithful a manner as "Love's Labor" could inspire her to do.

Second—She has received proceedings as follows: 1894, 730, of which, she has directed, mailed and sent by express, 631; leaving a balance on hand of 99. She has also a balance on hand of the following years: 1879, 8; 1880, 2; 1881, 14; 1884, 104; 1886, 144; 1887, 348; 1888, 7; 1889, 111; 1890 and 1891, 154; 1892, 252; 1893, (three large packages, each containing one hundred or more volumes), making in all nearly 2,000. In this connection, the Librarian desires publicly to acknowledge the very material and valuable assistance rendered her, from time to time, by our efficient and energetic Secretary and Treasurer.

Third—Rent in Powers Building, Rochester, N. Y., rates high, and as all business people can well appreciate, no person cares to rent more space for an office, than he or she can make available for his or her own use. The Librarian does not object to providing a place for twenty-five or fifty, even, of each year's proceedings, but, during the past year, she has been greatly inconvenienced by being obliged to give up to the occupancy of the great surplus of the back numbers of the proceedings space which she has been much in need of herself; therefore, would urgently request that some one or more of our worthy members offer some suggestions whereby a sale, or some other disposition of the said proceedings might be effected.

Fourth—Other accessions to the Library have been as follows: From Mrs. Eliza B. Burnz of New York, N. Y., a complete list of the books and periodicals contained in the Library at the time of her resignation as Librarian. From Mr. W. L. Mason of New York, N. Y., The Commercial Dictation Book for Stenographers and Typewriter Operators; also Serial Lessons in Isaac Pitman

Phonography; a complete Self-Instructor and Practical Guide in Shorthand Reporting; both books compiled by the donor.

Lastly—No call has been made for books from the Library and no visitor save Mr. W. W. Osgoodby of Rochester, N. Y., has favored it with even a "Social Call." The Librarian, therefore, with her best wishes for the future success of the N. Y. S. S. A. and its Library, submits her annual report.

M. JEANETTE BALLANTYNE,  
Librarian.

Dated, ROCHESTER, N. Y., August 15, 1895.

There was considerable discussion upon the question of how to best dispose of surplus copies of proceedings, which were proving a hindrance to business in the Librarian's office. The impression seemed to prevail that twenty-five to thirty copies of any year were a sufficient number to retain.

Miss Emens said: "I would suggest that the librarian be authorized to send notices to the principal phonographic magazines of the United States stating the years of which there is a surplus of proceedings and that any person may receive one of these numbers by sending ten cents, simply to cover postage. As I remember, there is a superabundance of only three or four years. Of the year 1893 there are about 800, and possibly one or two years before something over 100, 114 of one year; but only of the past two or three years are there very many more than we care to retain."

A motion was made and carried in accordance with above suggestions.

THE SECRETARY: Time will not permit me to read several hundred interesting and esteemed communications, which have been received during the year from patriotic professional phonographers throughout the land, bearing upon our mutual relations with each other and other like associations, our common cause, etc., etc.

Many letters from widely known and honored stenographic reporters, teachers and scholars, throughout the country, were read, among which we may mention those from Frank H. Burt ("What Ten Years has done for Shorthand in Massachusetts"), of Boston; David Wolfe Brown, of Washington; O. C. Gaston, President Iowa Stenographers' Association; H. L. Andrews, of Pittsburg; Alphonse Desjardins of Canada; Dr. Harris, Commissioner of Education, Washington; Jerome B. Howard of Cincinnati;

Buford Duke, of Nashville; Julius W. Zeibig, of Dresden, Saxony; Wm. H. Thornton of Buffalo; Bates Torrey, of Boston; Clifton B. Bull, of New York; John G. Bowman, of Philadelphia; H. J. Emerson, of Toronto; Chas. T. Platt, of Philadelphia, etc., as well as many letters from members, regretting their inability to be present, and sending words of greeting and good cheer.

Secretary-Treasurer Hill: You have doubtless observed the absence from our active membership roll of the names of two members of some years' standing—Mrs. Clara E. Brockway (Vice-President in 1890-91), of Brooklyn, and Miss Sarah M. Blount of Batavia. The Secretary was obliged to drop their names, being forced into accepting their resignations, which are now presented for acceptance on the part of the association. Also the resignation of Miss Mary E. Lyons of Rochester, who, being no longer actively engaged in shorthand work, resigns with much regret.

On motion these resignations were accepted.

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#### LETTER FROM MR. FRANK H. BURT.

"WHAT TEN YEARS HAS DONE FOR SHORTHAND IN MASSACHUSETTS."

NORTH WOODSTOCK, N. H., August 20, 1895.

*Dear Mr. Hill:*

I had hoped that I might be with you at the meeting of the N. Y. S. S. A. this week, and am very sorry that it cannot be. I have just returned to my White Mountain resting-place after a trip to the Thousand Islands, and feel that I must spend the rest of the vacation in recuperating. My thoughts will be with my friends among your number, and I wish you a pleasant and profitable meeting.

I promised to send you a communication which I should dignify with the name of a paper. I have been much interested in reading the discussion at your last convention upon the question "What Has Fifty Years Done for Shorthand?" and it has suggested many thoughts in a kindred line. I do not feel qualified to discuss the subject from a technical standpoint, from lack of familiarity with systems other than that which I write (Munson's), neither are my years sufficient to give me a half-century of retrospect. I can tell you a little, however, of "What Ten Years Has Done for Shorthand in Massachusetts," so far as my own observation has gone, for that is the period which has passed since I first ventured to append "Law Stenographer and Typewriter" to my name upon a modest sign in the building in Boston where my good friend H. V. Rewell had then lately established his office as New

England manager for Wyckoff, Seamans & Benedict. How much I owe to his encouragement and advice in those early and trying days I have not words to tell.

At that period our lamented friend Mr. Yerrinton was at the head of the profession. The terms "stenographer" and "Yerrinton" were almost synonymous. Walter Rogers (who, after seventeen years of service as official stenographer, has just resigned to devote himself wholly to his private stenographic practice) was also conducting a large business. The typewriter was still a somewhat new thing in the reporter's office. Only a few years before, notes were dictated to young stenographers, who rendered longhand transcripts. Gen. Charles H. Taylor, publisher of the *Boston Daily Globe*; James W. Perkins, secretary of the New York & New England Railroad Company, and Stephen O'Meara, lately editor of the *Boston Journal*, were some of the young men who had deemed it a privilege as well as a matter of pecuniary profit to take dictation from Mr. Yerrinton. There were in Boston not more than half a dozen expert typewriters capable of taking dictation in first-class style at the time of which I write. The press were better equipped with shorthand men at that period than at any time since. James P. Bacon, George C. Burpee, Samuel J. Menard, Charles A. Conant and several others of high standing were connected with the press. Nowadays, I might add, there are very few shorthand writers on the daily papers of Boston; reports of speeches, both at the club dinners for which Boston is so noted, and during political campaigns, are largely supplied by professional stenographers under direction of the manager of the Associated Press.

In the fall of 1885 there went into effect the first law providing for the appointment of official court stenographers in Massachusetts, outside of Suffolk county. To this I think we may fairly attribute much of the marvelous growth of shorthand in the succeeding years. It brought the people in direct contact with stenography and must have opened the eyes of many a bright young man and woman to its opportunities. The compensation was small—\$7 a day and seven cents a folio—and there were few experienced stenographers who cared for such a position. But as Mr. Howells says, it was valuable "as a basis"; and the excellent work done by the appointees is evidenced by the fact that of the eight original officials, three still retain the same positions and three others have been promoted to Suffolk county. Miss Conlan, one of the last named, retired some years ago by reason of her marriage.

In June, 1886, I went to Plymouth as the first stenographer for that county. In my experience there and at Barnstable (Cape Cod) and in other rural courts, it was interesting to observe the wonderment with which shorthand was regarded by the average citizen—juror, witness or court officer. Their admiration of the reporter's work was undisguised and their praise was no empty compliment. "Please write my name in shorthand," or "Will you copy this verse for me in shorthand?" were common requests. Well, a few years went by, and then it was—"My daughter is studying shorthand in Boston"; "My son has a position as ste-



nographer with the — manufacturing company"; "My brother's oldest girl is stenographer in a lawyer's office." Thus has shorthand spread into every nook and corner of the commonwealth.

From two official stenographers in the Boston courts, there now are six, and Middlesex county has two. The per diem of the stenographers in the smaller counties is \$9; folio rate, ten cents. Suffolk pays \$2,500 and \$1,500 salaries for the jury and jury-waived sessions severally; Middlesex, \$2,500; Bristol, \$1,100. Murder cases are now reported by teams of four (sometimes five) stenographers, working in short relays and delivering the report in triplicate within an hour after the close of each session. And with all the courts in session and many legislative committees holding important hearings, we can still find stenographers and typewriters enough to meet the demands of two murder trials in different parts of the state simultaneously.

Of the employment of stenographers as amanuenses, the progress in Boston has been similar to that in all great centres. The business house employing a stenographer or typewriter ten years ago was the exception; now it is the rule. The much-abused business college has furnished most of the material for this work—of that there is no denying; and I cannot see that the system taught makes any difference with the success of the pupils. To apply this statement to court reporting, I might say that one of our swiftest writers is a tachygraphist, and a young lady lately appointed to a court position, and who is highly commended for the ready reading of her notes, writes Beale's Simplified Phonography. Better stenographers were never trained than to-day. The systems now in use assuredly meet the demand of the "individuals having superior mental and physical characteristics," as well as of the "average brain and average hand," both for the higher and the humbler uses. Sometimes I have been tempted to think the teachers have tried to meet the demands of individuals with no brains at all; but I hope that these cases are in the minority, and that the example of the many able and accomplished stenographers with whom our profession is graced will always tend to raise the standing of those following the art, and to increase the popular respect for the conscientious and intelligent writer of shorthand.

With the warmest wishes for the prosperity of your association, I remain

Sincerely yours,

FRANK H. BURT.

Convention adjourned until 8 o'clock p. m.

## SECOND SESSION.

**A**T 8 o'clock the convention proceeded at once to the reading and discussion of papers.

## SHOULD THE REPORTER HAVE A DEGREE?

BY SARAH A. MOORE.

It is universally admitted that a member of any one of the generally recognized professions is entitled to a degree, therefore the answer to this query hinges largely upon the reply to that other question which has been brought up in certain quarters, "Is stenography a trade or a profession?" Webster's definition of profession is "that of which one professes knowledge, the occupation, if not mechanical, agricultural or the like, to which one devotes one's self," while a trade is defined as "mechanical employment as distinguished from the liberal arts, the learned professions and agriculture." The distinction as to agriculture seems to be sharply drawn in both cases, and though one of our number has been heard to say that owning a farm was a luxury he could by no means allow himself had he not a salary to keep it up with, it may safely be asserted that the reporter, generally speaking, is not an agriculturist, and is on that count at least entitled to rank as belonging to a profession.

The same authority speaks of theology, law and medicine as the three learned professions, but in what some one has wittily called "this *maenordo* age" this definition, while it may be time-honored, is certainly outworn. We can any of us call to mind occupations which require quite as broad and quite as definite knowledge as any one of these, occupations which are ranked as professions, with degrees which are regarded as of decided value. Then, coming back to the dictionary maker's firstly, "that of which one professes knowledge," while the stenographer is usually modest enough not to profess great knowledge, can any one point out a profession in which one has use for more, and more varied information? It is a truism to say that he, or she, must be master of the technicalities of whatever system may be used, but I firmly believe that the best work can only be done when the word of the speaker meets

with an intelligent response in the mind of the writer, and this at once opens the door to all science, language and literature, and bids the would-be proficient go in and learn, whether the knowledge is valued for its own sake or not. Why, then, should he not have the credit of this knowledge? Perhaps he would hardly care to be dubbed "Master of General Information," even if it should occur to the profound wisdom of some of our universities to grant such a title, well fenced in by Latin words from the too familiar understanding of the general public, though there is no question but that many a stenographer has earned a title which means all this and much more. I am not attempting, however, to make any suggestions as to the form the degree should take, only like all other agitators and unpleasant people of that sort, preaching the need of something which I leave others to find the means of bringing about.

It may be argued that the swarms of half-educated young men and women, calling themselves stenographers, who are let loose upon the country every year, like the plague of locusts in Egypt, which covered the face of the earth, and were in all the houses, drag down the average to such an extent that the granting of a degree to any one would be impractical, but there is nothing more misleading than an average. It will extinguish the light of one person's brilliant achievement, an achievement which may be the result of superior mental qualifications, and years of work and study; under the wet blanket of another person's inefficiency, an inefficiency which had its root in native stupidity, and attained its mischievous development under the blue glass of a three months' course of instruction. The very necessity for some distinction between classes so widely separated seems one of the strongest arguments in favor of granting a degree, a degree which does not claim too much, but which does stamp its possessor as having definite knowledge, knowledge which is worthy of being dignified by the name of learning, using the term in its broadest sense, and the technical skill to use this knowledge to the best advantage. This is precisely what most degrees stand for in the eyes of the people at large, and the reason why an honorably obtained degree is and must be a title to respect, as far as it goes, as unassailable as the title to land, which we regard as the standard of stability.

That titles of one sort or another are sometimes sought by disgraceful methods, and most unworthily bestowed, does not disprove this, any more than the existence of an occasional counterfeit dollar or train robbery disproves the existence of what we are pleased to term lawful money of the United States. If the real thing had no value no one would take the trouble to counterfeit or steal it. Such a title and its scope would soon be recognized, and would go far to set right many of the misapprehensions which now exist. Sometimes these misapprehensions cause serious embarrassment, and perhaps I may be pardoned for giving a little personal experience which illustrates this point. A year or so ago I had occasion to do some work for, or more accurately, with a man who may if he chooses write at least three titles after his name. The work was a pleasure on account of his unvarying courtesy and thoughtfulness, but as one after another little questions came up involving knowledge that seemed to me indispensable to any stenographer laying claim to ordinary intelligence, he lapsed into a state of chronic amazement. One day he asked with the air of one who expects to elicit convincing testimony, "Where did you go to school?" I told him, and then with equal decision said, "Why do you ask?" "Because I wondered where you acquired such accurate information." He did not dream that such an answer would inflict humiliation, but the keen edge of it lay in the fact that he had not learned to associate the person writing phonographic instead of Greek characters with scholarship of even a very modest sort. But he and thousands of others would have a fairly clear idea of what was implied by a degree judiciously given, and would respect it for just what it rightfully meant.

It may be argued that now we stand entirely on our own merit, and may make our standard as high as we please, but with equal fairness it may also be said that a degree would prove an extremely unsubstantial prop for any one who did not deserve it. Then, too, are there not a great many who would be ambitious enough to work for it, so that it might prove a sort of life-saving apparatus, helping to drag up the fearful dead weight which all must admit exists at the present time?

MR. McLOUGHLIN: I would suggest that it would be well to read now, in connection with Miss Moore's paper, the paper we have from Col. Dickinson.

VICE-PRESIDENT HEFFLEY: I presume there will be no objection to that, as both papers tend toward the same end. Col. Dickinson's paper is, as I understand it, rather long. If there are no remarks to be made on Miss Moore's paper now, the Colonel's paper will be read, when we can take up both for consideration.

Secretary Hill read the following letter from Col. E. B. Dickinson:

FERNCLIFF, WOLFBOBO, N. H., Aug. 18, 1895.

*Kendrick C. Hill, Esq., Secretary N. Y. S. S. A.*

DEAR SIR: The Association at its last annual meeting requested me to formulate some proposed legislation, as to the practice of shorthand.

I am unable to do more than I have done. In January, 1894, I published in the *Phonographic World* of that month a very carefully prepared article, the result of long consideration and deliberation. I have read it again; and I do not see what I could say to add to its force, or vary its form. In that article I asked for an expression of opinion from the stenographers of the state upon its subject matter. One young gentleman in Texas, one in Kentucky, and one, an official in New York City, paid me the compliment of writing to me in regard to it. The remainder of those in New York, whom it would chiefly affect, did not apparently deem the matter of sufficient importance to express anything, approval, disapproval or indifference, so far as any public expression was heard from them, perhaps with two exceptions.

I do not ask that shorthand writers shall adopt my views; nor do I expect them to co-operate with me in accomplishing anything which they do not deem worth accomplishing. But I am willing to go on record as predicting that unless something *is* done, either by legislative enactment or by co-operative effort on the part of expert stenographers, the conditions controlling our business will become such, that no man can afford to spend the time necessary to make him an expert.

Nothing has occurred since I prepared the article herewith submitted, to other than intensify the convictions therein expressed. Only a few weeks ago I learned that a stenographer who does a good deal of law reporting in one of the largest cities in the state, and who employs several young women to assist, sends to references a young lady who frankly confesses, that in taking references, she seldom can take the questions; she takes the answers and makes up the questions from the answers. Few of us possess stenographic ability of so startling and creative a character as to enable us to tell from a simple "yes, sir" or "no, sir" answer, what the ques-

tion was, to which that answer was given. Yet this enterprising and progressive young person attends references, and creates testimony upon which referees are to report and property to change hands.

Another young person, also of the feminine gender, told me herself that she was sent to references; and upon my expressing surprise that she should venture upon a field of industry requiring far greater skill than I knew she possessed, made me the following answer, which I give, I think, verbatim: "Oh, I put down what I can get, and I remember as much as I can; and I write out as much as I can read and as much as I can remember." And yet there are official stenographers who think that there is no call for any action which shall make it a misdemeanor for incompetent persons to trifle with legal proceedings in such fashion as this.

I do not contend that the proposed act shall be adopted as it stands. I offer it as covering, as well as may be, the conditions of the case. But I do insist that the power to license or legalize shall not be vested in any association, or committee; but that it shall be in the hands of the Judges of Courts of Record; for out of those courts go the references and other legal proceedings where oral testimony is to be given, and where stenographers are required; that no restriction be placed upon "age, sex or previous condition of servitude"; that no attempt be made to regulate the price at which the work is to be done. The two things to be accomplished are: to make it illegal for stenographers not licensed to take proceedings to be used in Courts of Record; and to ascertain, beyond any doubt, the entire competency of those who are thus licensed. I use the word "license" because it is convenient; but I think it would be well to adopt some word less suggestive of a peddler of small wares. Such, for instance, as "certified." A certificate would have to be issued, or a commission; and they might well be called "certified stenographers" who received such certificates.

Sufficient time should be given before the law went into effect, so that the examination could take place. The whole matter should be made simple, inexpensive and fair. The opinions of the Judges of the Courts of Record throughout the state should be obtained as to the advisability and desirability of such a law. There are official stenographers enough in the Association to secure quietly and without effort this opinion of the Judges of the Courts. I, myself, can procure such an expression from every Supreme Court Judge in Brooklyn. If they are opposed to it, then it would be unwise to attempt it. The Judges of the Courts of Record are upright, fair-minded men. The official stenographers of their courts are almost without exception upright, fair-minded men, and thoroughly expert stenographers; and it would, in my opinion, be entirely safe to pass the Act which I propose, so far as their part in its enforcement is concerned. We must trust somebody; and I am glad to admit, in spite of the pessimism with which I am charged, that the Judges and the stenographers of our Courts of Record are men who can be trusted.

It might be well to embody a character qualification, as is done in similar enactments as to other professions.

I am nearly 400 miles from New York. I have a house full of guests. My city residence is in the hands of the painters, paper-hangers, etc., with carpets up, and furniture piled in the middle of the rooms. I cannot without great inconvenience, expense and loss of time, attend the meeting. And if I were to attend I could say no more, and no other than I have said here and in the article which I respectfully submit for the consideration of the Association. I ask for it a careful attention. Those who may differ with me are requested to withhold judgment until they have given the matter the same careful thought and earnest deliberation that I have bestowed upon the whole subject. For two years before I put pen to paper, I had been reflecting upon what could be done; and while I do not claim that it is perfect, or above criticism, I do claim that it is no hasty production; but the result of the best thinking I could do upon the subject, and as such I submit it.

Very truly yours,

EDW. B. DICKINSON.

Mr. Peter P. McLoughlin read Col. Dickinson's article, as follows:

#### IS STENOGRAPHY A PROFESSION?

*To the Editor of the World:*

I ask space in which to call the attention of shorthand writers generally, and especially the attention of those stenographers who, like myself, have been many years in business, to the above question; it is one to which I have given more thought and consideration than to any other connected with our business.

Is stenography a profession, in the estimation of the business community? Is it classed among those vocations which are conceded to be professions? After much reflection and observation, I am reluctantly compelled to the conclusion that it is not, and that it will not be so classed and considered until the laws of the state recognize it as such, and prescribe some regulations as to who shall practice it. And that there may be no confusion of ideas arising from confusion in the use of terms, I will state here what I mean, so far as the purposes of this article are concerned, by the words "profession" "stenographer" and "stenography."

Worcester's definition of the word "profession" is:

"3. A calling; a vocation; an occupation; a business; office; employment; especially *an employment requiring a learned education, as those of divinity, law and physic.*"

It will be observed that down to the words in italics (the italics being mine) the definition would apply with equal force and ac-

curacy to any description of employment whatsoever. Under its very broad scope, any person doing any work regularly would be entitled to call his vocation a "profession," whether he were a clergyman or a croupier in a gambling house. I do not use the word in any such broad sense: I employ it rather with reference to the words in italics, "an employment requiring a learned education." It is not an essential to go into the question of how learned the education must be; it will suffice if it be admitted that some learning is essential to equip a stenographer for his work.

Webster's definition is perhaps better: "The business which one professes to understand and to follow for subsistence; calling; vocation; employment; as the learned professions. But the word is not applied to an occupation *merely mechanical*."

Hence it would appear that according to this definition, which substantially accords with that given by other lexicographers and encyclopædists, stenography *is* a profession, unless it is considered as merely mechanical. That it is merely mechanical I am told on an average fifty-two times in each year. That is to say, that it is "done without thought or reflection," as the result of long training, "as the rapid fingering of a pianist is mechanical" (Worcester). This is true only to a limited extent; for we have this paradox: that the more intelligently the stenographer is able to do his work, through becoming more expert, the more mechanical is his performance. Now, among my other marked misdirections of energy, I devoted a large portion of ten years to learning to play the piano forte; and while I presume that I could indulge in some rapid fingering, mechanically, with my thoughts fixed, for instance, on the theories of the Rosicrucians, neither I nor any other stenographer could successfully take a rapid examination unless he had his wits about him, and kept his "thought and reflection" concentrated on what he was doing. Hence, whatever the public may esteem it, I am of the opinion that stenography is not wholly such a mechanical occupation as to disqualify it from a place, humble though it be, among the other professions, learned though they be.

By "stenographer" I mean an expert writer of shorthand; one who is entirely competent to meet *all* the requirements of the calling, from the accurate reporting and revision of the proceed-



ings of an immense convention, of a rapid and technical argument in court, down to the taking of a carefully dictated letter. And by "stenography" I mean the work done by such a stenographer. I am not arbitrarily establishing those definitions as the only correct ones. I merely state the meaning which I attach to the words, for the purposes of this article only.

Now, in considering the proposition that stenography is not and will not be classed among the professions until the laws of the state recognize it as such and regulate its practice by some restrictions, it is well to ask, "What can the Legislature do, and what is it wise to ask that body to do, if anything, in this respect?" And it is a fair, frank, and above all a courteous discussion of that question which I ask; while we admit its importance, we may also admit that it is a question as to which there may be an honest difference of opinion.

In 1887-8, while I was President of the New York State Stenographers' Association, Mr. Lansing, of Rochester, submitted for the consideration of the executive committee of that association a proposed act to be passed by the Legislature, requiring all stenographers to be examined by examiners appointed by that association, and under its direction, before they should be permitted to take testimony, etc., for use in courts of record. The proposed act was quite long; and while its general features met with my earnest approval, I was overruled in committee on the question whether it should be submitted to the association for action at its next annual meeting. At the meeting of that committee at which this adverse action was taken were present Messrs. Frederic M. Adams and George R. Bishop, of New York; Mr. Wm. H. Slocum, of Buffalo; and Mrs. Clara E. Brockway of Brooklyn, who was the secretary of the committee. The unanimous adverse opinion of such stenographers as they, standing as they do among the very foremost in the business, silenced me, while it convinced me only as to this—that the proposed bill was in some respect objectionable, because of its great length and somewhat complicated provisions; because the question of special legislation was involved; and because it was apprehended that the legislature, while on the subject might in addition pass some legislation hostile to fair compensation, such as was attempted in an adjoining state

quite recently. So the matter was dropped so far as any association action was concerned. Since that time, however, conversations with many of the leading stenographers in this city, and elsewhere in the country, have seemed to indicate a growing conviction that something ought to be done in the direction outlined by Mr. Lansing. And it seems not improper that I should submit to my brother stenographers, as the result of my own reflection and consideration, this question—whether the best interests of shorthand writers of every grade, and of the legal profession generally in their relations to shorthand writers, would not be permanently promoted if the legislature were to pass an act something to this effect:

**AN ACT** to secure greater accuracy in stenographic reports of judicial proceedings:

**BE IT ENACTED, ETC.:** No person shall take stenographic notes of any proceeding or trial, before any Court, Judge, Referee, or any other person authorized to hear oral testimony and proofs, where the transcript of such notes is to be used in any action or proceeding in any court of record in this state, except such person shall have received a certificate of competency, as prescribed in Article 2.

**ARTICLE 2.** Any person desiring to qualify under the provisions of this Act to take original notes as specified in Article 1, shall make written application to the judge of some court of record, within whose jurisdiction the applicant resides at the time of making such application, stating his or her age and residence, and asking that he be permitted to appear for examination. Upon such application, the judge to whom it is made shall at once specify to applicant certain trial days in such court of record, on either of which days such applicant may appear. That on one of such days such applicant shall appear, and shall, under the direction of the presiding judge, take the proceedings of the trial for not less than two hours. That said applicant shall have equal facilities afforded him to take such proceedings as are afforded the official stenographer of said court. That said applicant shall immediately thereafter make a plain and fair transcript of his stenographic notes so taken by him, and submit the same, together with his original stenographic notes, to the trial judge before whom said trial was had; and said trial judge shall cause a careful comparison to be made of the said transcript so submitted by said applicant, with the stenographic notes of the official stenographer of said court taking said trial on said day. And if, upon such comparison the said trial judge shall be satisfied by the certificate of such official stenographer, that the said transcript is substantially accurate, and that it correctly records the said testimony and proceedings offered

and had before him on said day, then he shall thereupon issue a certificate under the seal of the court to said applicant, setting forth the fact of said applicant's satisfactory compliance with the provisions of this act. And upon the receipt of such certificate, such applicant shall thereafter be authorized to take stenographic reports, to be used in any court of this state. But failure to pass such examination, as herein provided, shall not bar any applicant from making subsequent applications for the same purpose, after a lapse of thirty days from the last preceding application.

ARTICLE 3. This act shall not apply to any person holding the position of official stenographer to any court of record at the date of the passage of this act. But no person shall hereafter be appointed to such positions except after compliance with this act.

ARTICLE 4. (Some provision as to penalty for violation; and that notes so taken in violation shall be incompetent and void as records of proceedings in courts of record.)

ARTICLE 5. This act shall take effect, say three months after the date of its passage.

Of course, I do not offer this as the precise wording of the act. I write it as it occurs to me at the moment of writing, to convey these salient points: (1) that nobody thereafter shall take cases in courts or before referees, unless they have demonstrated their fitness and ability to do so; (2) that such demonstration shall be before a judge of some court of record, most convenient to applicant; (3) that such examination shall be a practical test of the fitness of the person to do the work; (4) that it shall not be a five-minute spurt, where nervousness or excitement might (as I have seen occur) incapacitate a really competent person; but a steady, quiet, sustained effort to do *exactly what they must do*, every time they undertake to report a trial, whether before a referee or in court.

Now, what would be the effect of the passage of such an act, properly worded so as to accomplish the purpose outlined? It can be very tersely stated, that expert work would be done by experts only. Of course, a great many thoroughly equipped stenographers in private practice would have to have their day in court to get their certificate. But what should they care for that? That is precisely what they are doing in their business every day. No competent man hesitates to go to any court and report a trial for a client, and to take pay for it at the regular rates; and it would not disturb his repose in the least if he were told that the transcript he furnished was to be compared with that of the official stenogra-

pher of that court. Why should he object to do it without pay for two hours when he was to get his diploma, so to speak, or the benefit of a judicial decision that he was a thoroughly competent stenographer? I do not believe that any such man would object very strenuously.

Now, in candor, what is sought to be accomplished by the act? What is it aimed at? What is sought to be accomplished is that oral testimony and proceedings before courts, referees, commissioners, etc., shall be taken only by those whose competency has been certified to. It is aimed at incompetency solely and wholly; it seeks to establish no fixed minimum rate of speed, no fixed rate of pay; it permits every one to sell his work at such price he deems proper; but it places the seal of judicial sanction and approval upon the competent. It says to no one, "You shall not earn your living by writing shorthand." It simply says, in effect: "There is a certain important class of shorthand work which cannot be properly done by a shorthand writer until a certain amount of expertness has been acquired. If you have that expertness, you can do that work; if not, you must wait until you have acquired it. Then the doors are open to you all."

Every man who has been in the shorthand business in New York for twenty-five years has seen the curious tendency which has developed, especially in the last ten years; the tendency, namely, to push young and inexperienced shorthand writers, who are very admirable and useful as amanuenses and office stenographers, where the rate of speed is entirely under control, into cases requiring at times the utmost skill, experience and coolness. It is against this encouraging of incompetency, this thrusting forward of inexperience, that such an act would operate. There would be a redistribution of labor; the stenographic clerk would do office work and office work only, and the expert would do expert work only. And at this point let me say: I have been led to believe that young stenographers look upon us old hands, "old fogies," if you like, as puffed up in our own conceit, inspired with feelings of contempt or dislike for the younger members of the brotherhood. Speaking for myself, and so far as my association with men of my own age warrants me in speaking for them, I say that this is all a

great mistake. If there is anything in this wide world that will take the conceit out of a man, it is being in active stenographic practice for a series of years. If that does not thoroughly subdue and humble his spirit, then nothing will accomplish that result. We neither overrate our own qualifications, nor underrate the abilities of those who, in the course of a not very long time, will take our places. We entertain towards them only feelings of kindness and good will. But while we do not desire to curtail, nor hamper, nor in any way interfere with their prospects or prosperity (nor could we, if we did desire it), we do feel that they should be careful to fit themselves for work which, unfitted, they cannot creditably perform. We know that we have had very few cases during the progress of which more than once our ability to write shorthand at an extremely high rate of speed has not been thoroughly tested, and usually upon points where it was important that the testimony should be accurately recorded, and that it very often happens that those parts are the very ones which we are called on to read to the court. We have learned how many years of drudgery it takes to become "competent," We have learned that there is one essential to competency, which only comes with time; which cannot be learned from any book; which cannot be acquired from the teaching or experience of others; and that is, that curious self-possession, that acquired self-control, which prevents the stenographer from becoming "rattled," as the popular phrase is, under embarrassing or trying circumstances. And while temperaments differ in the respect of tranquility, it is safe to say that not one in a thousand is born with the nervous system so thoroughly under control that he will not often be the victim of court fright during the earlier years of his business life. Hence it is, that while a young shorthand writer may do very creditable work where the speed is under control, and nothing occurs to fluster him, as in dictation, etc., when he undertakes expert work, requiring great facility, coolness and experience, he is very likely to go very badly to pieces. Aside from the consequences to the individual, this failure tends to bring all stenographers, of every grade, into disfavor and disrepute. Let me say, in passing, that by incompetent I do not mean stupid, ignorant, or uneducated. I mean *unqualified*. I mean what the word in its Latin derivation means—"in"

(privative), "without," and "*competens*," "being qualified for." They have not acquired the qualifications, the facility, the fitness necessary to do the work. Hence, through their inevitable failure, all stenographers often come in for criticism and censure.

No man can practice in any *profession* except by warrant of law. The physician must pass certain examinations and have his fitness to cure (or kill) you determined before he can legally experiment on you. The dentist cannot drill down into your very soul until, by an examination, he has satisfied the law that he knows something about the drilling process. The lawyer must pass his examination to be admitted to the bar; and the injunction, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel unto every creature," cannot be obeyed, except by the sidewalk exhorter, or by the salvation army, until the preacher has passed his examination and been regularly ordained; certainly not so far as the preacher's relation to the civil law is concerned. In brief, every profession has statutory regulations as to who shall practice it. Nay, even the swarthy sons of Italy cannot peddle peanuts on our streets without a license. But anybody who chooses to style himself a "stenographer," no matter how little he knows of the business, or how little experience he may have had, if he can persuade the appointing power, may assume, unchallenged, to report a case, involving, it may be, "the lives, the fortunes, and the sacred honor" of the parties to the proceeding. And as one of those who went through a rigid course of preparation; who "took dictation," as the term was in those days, from his elders and superiors; who spent many months taking not two hours but whole days of proceedings in the various courts before venturing to take a case on his own responsibility, I protest against it. I ask that my brother officials, and my still larger brotherhood of those who are not officials, yet who are in every way qualified to do anything that a stenographer can do, the brotherhood of private practitioners with whom I have worked for so many years, shall take into careful, thoughtful, and temperate consideration the question whether or not something can be done by which there shall be drawn in the minds of those who employ us a clear line of distinction between those of us who are now *stenographers*, and those who, in time, with the hard work which we in our day did, may become stenographers,

but who are not yet qualified to be so entitled, in the sense in which I have here employed the word.

Nothing can be done in this direction unless it has the cordial approval of stenographers and of the legal profession generally; and rightly so. Because I and others feel warmly and earnestly on the subject, it does not follow necessarily, that what seems desirable to us is really the wisest course to pursue. If the consensus of opinion is against us, we must yield. But, I should like to see the business to which I have devoted my life, and in which there are men who would have been an honor and an ornament to any profession they had chosen to adopt—I should like to see our business elevated to the dignity of a *real* profession, entry to which was to be had by certified qualifications only, as is in the case with professions admittedly such; elevated to the dignity of a profession in which experience, fitness and skill should, as in all other professions, count *in favor* of a man, instead of counting against him, or not counting at all, as now appears to be the case. Under the present status of public estimation we are simply scriveners, writing various systems and styles of penmanship, from a dictation more or less rapid. And the journals which represent our calling, however divided and inharmonious upon all other topics they may be, are in accord upon this one point: That the "tone" of the "profession" is getting lower and lower all the time, and needs something to elevate and dignify it.

I think that a full and frank expression of views as to the subject matter of this article would be very useful; especially should I be glad to hear from those whose years and experience in business give their opinions the weight and value due to the utterances of experts.

I do not deem it my province as a special pleader to suggest objections to a measure which I advocate. But, as I have given the subject, perhaps, more thought than others have had time or inclination to bestow upon it, the following are some which have occurred to me as likely to be made; and we must give due consideration to the arguments, *con* as well as *pro*.

Objection may be made by some officials, as it would entail the trouble upon them of examining and comparing the transcripts of applicants for certificates of competency; and there would be quite

a number of these applicants, especially at first. I trust, however, that there is sufficient professional spirit among the officials to prevent this objection being strenuously urged.

Objection may be made by private practitioners on the ground that their many years of successful business life is a sufficient guarantee of their competency. I sympathize with this feeling; I admit its force. But in view of the advantage to the whole body, as well as incidentally to themselves in obtaining a guarantee which cannot be disputed, it seems to me that they might *pro bono professionis* waive that very natural feeling.

Objection certainly would be made by those who feel that they are not quite "up to concert (or court) pitch." I fancy that students of all professions deplore the necessity of rigorous examination; but I have also observed that when they have passed those examinations they resent with great earnestness any tendency to "lower the bars," any attempt to make it easier for others to get in. It would undoubtedly prove so in this case.

Objection will probably be made by lawyers who have stenographic clerks in their employ into whose hands they like to throw all the outside work they can, sometimes as part compensation for low salaries paid, and sometimes from motives of friendship and a desire to "help them along," and always with little thought or care as to their competency. Such a measure as this proposed might bring about a clearer appreciation of the class of work required in actual trials of causes. It must be admitted as a fact that among lawyers, who employ stenographers oftener than almost any other class of men, there are very many who do not apparently realize that the capable and intelligent young lady or gentleman who takes dictation of letters, briefs, and other office papers, in a highly satisfactory manner, and who transcribes them with correctness and good judgment, is not *ipso facto* fully competent to go to the trial of a case and make a verbatim report of it, or even a report which could be used as a reliable record. I can recall a score of instances where this want of appreciation has been demonstrated. To too many, "a stenographer is a stenographer." So a physician is a physician; but I observe that few will select a just graduated physician to take charge of an im-



portant or critical case. So it should be with us. Experience and skill should count in our favor, and not against us.

The objection also may be made that there is no necessity for the act; that records are kept with sufficient accuracy now. This objection is in the nature of a *petitio principii*, as that is the very point at issue. Are they so kept? Then, again, it may be claimed that there is no parallelism between our profession and that of law, physic, surgery, etc., or other professions regulated by statutory provisions; that the errors, inaccuracies, etc., of shorthand writers can be cured; while the mistakes of the man who deals with your heart and other vital organs, with your vested rights, etc., are remedied, if remedied at all, at great expense and trouble.

Then the objection alluded to at the outset, to wit, legislative interference with compensation; having regulated our practice, they may regulate our pay. This objection could have been raised with equal force as to the passage of the acts regulating physicians, surgeons, etc.; but it never took legislative shape so far as to put a limit on what doctors and lawyers should charge.

The statutes do regulate the fees of court stenographers; and the Code also provides that "a person shall not be appointed to the office of stenographer unless he is skilled in the stenographic art." But the Code is silent as to the degree of skill.

The *quasi* official stenographer before a referee is an officer unknown to the law. While there has been more or less legislation as to stenographers, it has usually had reference to court stenographers. It is quite possible that legislation similar to that suggested here might have been had long ago if the public, especially those connected with the State Judiciary, had at the outset appreciated the extent and importance which out-of-court work was to attain; such as references and similar proceedings before officers appointed by the court to take oral proof.

In trying to satisfy myself as to the desirability and feasibility of this measure (for I confess that it is a radical one, and one about which much may be said), I have found the question simplified by imagining that something like the proposed act had been passed many years ago. Suppose that, at about the time the

so-called schools of stenography started up and began to turn out their three-months'-experts, the legislature had done substantially what is suggested here, and had prescribed the conditions under which this one class of shorthand work was to be done; and suppose that the law had been in operation fifteen years. Does anybody who knows anything about the present unsatisfactory condition of the business, doubt that the status of all shorthand writers would be far better than it is? Stenography would have become a profession. Young men and women would consider it in the light of an acknowledged, accredited vocation of life. But, knowing that a regular course of training was required before any marked success could be attained, they would possibly consider more carefully their own special aptitude for a calling which demands such hard and continuous work; and they would scrutinize more closely the pecuniary rewards which were to result from such work. And it is quite within the limits of probability that, as the outcome of that more careful consideration and that closer scrutiny, we should have fewer shorthand writers to-day, who had been allured by misrepresentations on the part of others, and misconceptions on their own part, into a calling for which they were never fitted, and in which they must reap the harvest of failure and of disappointment.

All through my business career I have tried my best to elevate and dignify my "profession." I have tried to arouse others from the apathy which seems to characterize the guild into some zeal in that same direction. That is all I seek to do now. Whether this is the wisest course to be adopted to attain that end, I cannot tell. But these three things are very clear to my mind: Something should be done, if we are to have other than a merely clerical standing in the business community; some of us should try to decide upon what that something is; and then we should all set about its accomplishment.

EDWARD B. DICKINSON.

Mills Building, New York, December 15, 1893.

CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY: These papers certainly open up a question of far-reaching importance—a question that has been up, from time to time, in previous years, but no definite action has been taken, and no effort has been made toward the passage of an act. This paper of Col. Dickinson's, and the one read previously

by Miss Moore, bear on a point that is very vital to us and should be considered. The papers are now open for discussion.

MR. McLOUGHLIN: I have waited for some minutes in the hope that some one else would rise to discuss this paper. To my mind, the paper is one of the best that has ever been written on a question in which our profession takes a deep interest. Col. Dickinson's article, which I had the pleasure of reading before to-day, was written by him more than a year ago. It was handed to me by a gentleman who has been practicing the profession of shorthand for upwards of thirty-five years, and it was his opinion that something of the sort suggested in this paper should be done. I think the test proposed by Col. Dickinson is the wisest one; and that is, to have a man who seeks a court position, or to do work of that class, go into court and do some actual court work. That is decidedly the best test that could be imposed.

There has been a good deal of reform in our city of late, and among the things the reformers have sought to accomplish is the reform of stenographers of courts. In one of the inferior criminal courts the official had been there for some twenty-five years. A new judge going in told him, if he wanted to keep his place, he would be required to make application in the usual form. He was a man who had been connected with judges of every shade of political faith for a quarter of a century, and was required, by reason of his position to write stenography and write it fast. He was in every way qualified for the place. These judges had some five applications and referred them all to the Civil Service Board. The applicants went before the examiners, and among the five were three stenographers widely known as the best in the city, who took the test along with the official who had been in the court for twenty-five years. One of the examiners took up testimony and read the questions and another read the answers—both reading at the rate of 240 words a minute. When the reading was completed, the official who had done work in court with approved satisfaction for twenty-five years, got up and left the room, and tore up his notes saying he could not attempt to write them out. The other gentlemen who were there—all of whom were efficient stenographers, competent to do any kind of court work—wrote out the matter that had been dictated, al-

though obliged to leave a great many breaks in their transcript. I think from that experience we can see that the test proposed by Col. Dickinson would be more fair—and that is, for a man to go right in and do actual court work.

As to the necessities for this legislation, I believe they are many. Ours is the only learned calling that anyone can follow without any particular license or diploma—one stenographer is as good as another at the start; it only takes time to find out whether he is or not. It has often been said that a person's life—*very often* his liberty—depends on the simple answer to a question. In a recent case in Brooklyn—quite a celebrated murder case—a judge of the Supreme Court threatened to have a stenographer indicted for his incompetency. In that case, if the prisoner turns out to be innocent (as he is likely to turn out), this stenographer certainly did the very best he could to hang him, or to have him electrocuted, because, to this vital question: "Did the defendant say he had an axe, or used an axe on his father?" the stenographer, who had no answer on his stenographic record, put in the answer, "Yes." He was placed upon the witness stand and the defendant's counsel asked him to refer to his original notes. He had to confess that he had no answer whatever on the record and merely put that in so there would be some answer to the question. When such things as that occur—when a judge of the Supreme Court is threatening to have a stenographer indicted—it is high time the State Stenographers' Association, ladies and gentlemen, who believe in the honor of their profession, should take some action to raise its standard and add to its dignity.

I thought the matter over while I was here to-day, and it struck me it would be wise to appoint a committee with power to draft a bill such as Col. Dickinson proposes; and, if it would not be infringing on the duty of the president, I might suggest that Col. Dickinson be placed at the head of such committee, and that the association authorize the committee to present such bill to the legislature.

For years I have been reading the reports of this association, and there are a great many good things that have been proposed for our benefit and for our good; but, if we do not act on these suggestions, we will not get ahead. Later on, after this paper has

been more fully discussed, I would take pleasure in making that motion.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. President, and ladies and gentlemen: I do not feel physically able this afternoon to take any part in the proceedings. Perhaps before we close I may have something to say—very briefly, however, if at all. It just occurred to me, before the President called my name, that, as Col. Dickinson's paper contained some very important remarks and suggestions as to reference work, my esteemed friend, on my left here, might be able either to ratify or refute some of his statements along the line of reference work, and I think we would be glad to hear from our friend, Mr. Woodle, on that subject.

MR. WOODLE: I doubt, Mr. President, if I have very much to say about this. Of course, I could say a good deal, but Mr. Dickinson, in his letter, says something to the effect that we ought not to discuss this question until we have given as much attention to it as he has, and that he had thought it over for two years; so that, if that is so, we are not in a position to discuss it until the end of two years, because I do not think any of us—while the matter may have suggested itself to us from time to time—or perhaps very few of us, have given it the study and attention so as to express ourselves about it as fully and clearly as Col. Dickinson. However, I will say just a little about it.

As to this qualification of stenographers who do reporting, I do not think it needs any discussion. We all of us, who have done that class of work (reporting of testimony), have met from time to time, both men and women who assumed to be good stenographers and have asked and solicited employment in reporting testimony, whom we knew to be inexperienced, and we have sometimes known the reason for their undertaking to get this employment away from those who ought to have had it. Sometimes it has been a lower price to be paid for the reporting; sometimes it has been a matter (as I believe—I have not had any actual knowledge on the subject) of division of fees with the referee.—Of course, those things are disagreeable to contemplate—and they result as Col. Dickinson says, in giving the profession generally a bad name. But I do not think it is so very serious. In my ex-

perience, lawyers who require good work to be done, will employ good stenographers and will pay them a fair price for their work. That has been my experience. I do not want the work of lawyers who employ poor stenographers, because, whatever legislation you may have enacted on the subject of the employment of qualified stenographers, the man who is in the habit of employing incompetent people to do his work, will seek to employ the qualified or licensed stenographer at rates below that which the best stenographers will demand. When it comes to good work, the man who wants it will pay for it; and the man who wants it is generally the man who has a great deal of it. The man who doesn't want it is the man who has very little of it.

Perhaps I feel a little more conservative on this question than the rest of you. I have always had, generally speaking, a prejudice, or at least a strong feeling against licensing anybody, in any profession. I have always felt that the man or woman who has merit is going to succeed. I have always felt that the world would be better by letting everybody do the best they can, and putting no restrictions upon anybody.

I have realized that, in the case perhaps of the physician, it may be necessary that the law should say that he who undertakes to cure our ills should first show himself qualified. It is certainly much more important than the legal profession. I don't think it would be a very serious matter if we required no license in the practice of the law. However, there may be technical points which perhaps may make it advisable that men should be licensed to practice the law; but in stenography it has never seemed to me that it was necessary.

The case Mr. McLoughlin spoke of, this Brooklyn case, was not a trial for murder, but a coroner's inquest. I do not think he could point out a single case of a trial in court where such an occurrence ever took place. I don't believe it ever will happen.

Another thing struck me while the paper of Col. Dickinson was being read, and that is that we are all apt to forget that the occupation of the stenographer is limited. I mean to say that I believe the time will come when the occupation of the stenographer will be gone. You perhaps know what I mean. I believe that Mr. Edison, or some one, will so perfect the phonograph, or some sim-

ilar instrument, so as to report even a court proceeding by means of it.

Of course, we have not yet seen or heard of an instrument that can accomplish that. It may be a long way off, and it may not be as long as we imagine; but I think the time will come when we will have it. It may be necessary that some human intelligence shall guide it; it may be necessary that some human intelligence shall supplement it. But, practically, I believe the time will come when the phonograph—(I call it by that name, though the perfected instrument may be called by some other name)—will do all the work stenographers are now doing in court.

I do not mean by all this to say that I am entirely opposed to what Col. Dickinson suggests.

I can see that objection to such a law might exist in the minds of stenographers who might be a little timid about expressing it; that is to say, that if it were necessary to go through an examination of that kind the stenographer who has now a good business is apt to say: "Well, I don't know, I think I will let well enough alone. I have a good business; I do not ask anybody's license. I have been in business many years and I know all the people in my vicinity, and they know me. If there is any important business going on I am apt to get my share of it. If such a law as that is enacted it might happen that I would fail on such a test, and that being so, I think it better to let well enough alone. I think I will object to it. I think I would rather let everybody go along as they have been going, and take my chances in making my living in my own way." I do not say I feel that way. I am accustomed to doing court work. I have sat by the side of Mr. Anderson and of most of our other court stenographers, and I think I can stand any test; but that is the view which a good many stenographers might take of it, although they might not say so. On the whole, perhaps, as Col. Dickinson suggests, I had better take a couple of years to think this over, and let you know what I think of it then.

I will, while I think of it, however, add this idea. If the test named by Col. Dickinson were the test to be adopted as to qualification, much of the objection to it would be removed. But who can say what a legislature will do with any proposed bill? As-

suming a bill presented embracing this test of Col. Dickinson, who can say but the legislature might be influenced to either entirely reject it, and substitute in its place one that is objectionable and unfair, or so modify it as to destroy its efficiency? It seems to me that if a committee is appointed upon this subject they should also be required to watch the legislature, and if they find that any bill is presented which is unfair they should try and defeat it.

MR. LAW: I am not certain that I can say anything that will be of advantage. I am an official stenographer, and so would be outside of the provisions of the statute, except in so far as doing my part in carrying out the proposed legislation.

I have some doubt in my mind about making a calling respectable, or respected, by legislative enactment. I have the same doubt that I have about making people good by legislative enactment. It has never worked to the entire satisfaction of those who wish to accomplish reforms in that way. Still, I favor anything which may tend to elevate our calling, and in the hope that this movement may achieve that end I will give it my support.

MR. GARDINER: I have nothing in particular to add to what has been said in the course of this debate, but in obedience to the call of the chairman would express my most sincere appreciation of the ability that has been displayed in all the papers and discussions. For myself I do not see why court stenographers should not be licensed. Those holding positions of no greater responsibility in connection with many professions and crafts are required to exhibit such warrants of fitness for their work. The proper discharge of the duties to which we are called requires a very high degree of skill and proficiency. The measure proposed would, if adopted, prove a protection to both the community and the profession.

MR. McLOUGHLIN: I would suggest that we hear from Prof. Mason, who has had a great deal of experience in reporting reference cases.

MR. MASON: Although I have never been an official stenographer *de jure*, I was one *de facto*. Some years ago I occupied a position in the criminal courts and did a great deal of official



work, under Judge Frederick G. Gedney. I believe Col. Dickinson to be a clear, level-headed man, who weighs well his words and comes to conclusions after careful thought. I heartily concur in his views, and I should not oppose such a bill as he proposes.

MR. HEMPERLEY: Mr. President, I do not feel that I am in a position to say anything worth listening to on this question. I have been exceedingly interested in hearing it presented so ably by Col. Dickinson; and it struck me, during the reading of it, that his positions are well taken, and the conclusions that he reaches, sound.

I have a general interest in the welfare of shorthand writers, and I should be very glad, indeed, if it were possible to do something that would tend to give them recognized standing in the community. While it is difficult to convince a great many who are now thoroughly competent non-officials that there is any necessity for their protection, yet, I think I can see that there can be an advantage in having a law by means of which those who are competent should be made secure in the enjoyment of the practice which they may already have, and those who are not competent shall be prohibited from imposing upon the public. It is all very well to talk about allowing everybody universal license, as my brother (Woodle) says, to do all he can in any direction, and preventing any one from interfering with him; but, yet I cannot see any reason why the stenographer should not be officially determined as competent, just as the lawyer or the doctor is; and, because good, sound lawyers know good work and employ good men, there is no reason why those in that profession who may not be competent to distinguish between good and bad stenographers should not be prevented from employing incompetent stenographers to the detriment of their clients and the public generally. They would certainly then have to seek assistance from those whom the law decided worthy. I cannot see any reasonable objection why you should not undertake something of that kind.

In other words, where technical skill is required, in matters of great importance in the community, involving life, liberty and enjoyment of property, there should be some competent fixed standard for those doing that work.

I believe that this is a question that will not down until you settle it in such a way as this, and I think a full discussion would be of great value in assisting us in coming to a conclusion. I should be very glad to hear from others who have not already expressed themselves.

MR. BARTHOLOMEW: I would like to add a word to what has already been said. It seems to me that something ought to be done in the direction indicated. We all know that weeds will grow if permitted. They do not require cultivation, nor even planting. A few weeks ago I had a very good looking garden, but I neglected it, and now it is little better than a patch of weeds.

It seems to be the general impression that the average efficiency of stenographers is not as high as it formerly was, or, at least, that the percentage of incompetents is greater. Is not this because the stenographic garden has been neglected?

The same cannot be said of other professions, although the tendency to degenerate is undoubtedly universal. We can now, for instance, more safely apply to the first physician we meet for treatment than we could have done a few years ago. The reason probably is that physicians have taken better care of their garden. A person must study medicine long enough to become a competent physician and must pass the required examinations before he is allowed to practice. One result of this is that the esteem in which physicians are held by the general public is undoubtedly increasing, and the word "quack" seems to be almost going out of use.

A similar condition ought to exist in regard to stenographers. No one should be permitted to offer his services to the public unless he has passed a satisfactory examination. It seems to me, therefore, for the protection of the public as well as of stenographers, that it would be well to do something of the kind suggested in these papers.

MR. SHALVEY: I think the matter has been thoroughly discussed. What I might say would add very little to it. I may remark, however, that I concur with Col. Dickinson. Did I understand Mr. McLoughlin to have a motion to offer regarding the action proposed? If he will make a motion I will second it.

**Mr. McLoughlin:** *Resolved*, That the Chairman be directed to appoint a committee of five to draft an act for presentation to the next legislature, on the lines laid down in Col. Dickinson's paper entitled "Is Stenography a Profession?"

**Mr. Shalvey:** I second the motion.

Carried by a rising vote (nearly all voting in favor of the resolution.)

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### " SHORTHAND AND RELATED STUDIES, PARTICULARLY WORD-STUDIES."

BY EDWIN B. GARDINER, OFFICIAL COURT STENOGRAPHER, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I have been so often called upon to prepare papers for occasions similar to this that I am considerably restricted in the choice of a topic, and, in order not to repeat myself, I have chosen the following:

#### SHORTHAND AND RELATED STUDIES.

The devotees of an art like ours, which allies itself so closely with the inner consciousness of men, are fond of expressing to one another the feelings of admiration with which they regard it. Every earnest reporter "magnifies his office," as did Paul. However others may affect to look upon it with indifference, he has within himself the consciousness of a useful power and a worthy vocation. If the thoughtless esteem his task an easy or a trifling one, he simply challenges them to try it for themselves. If they conceive it void of pleasure or utility, he smiles complacently at their erring judgment. A possession little understood, it is only those who have it who know how to estimate it. To the labors they perform and the seeming impossibilities they overcome the world pays little heed. The sympathetic word and the kindly recognition must come mainly from the comrades of the craft. These should be freely bestowed, for they are richly deserved. Indeed, may we not truly say that no class of faithful workers display greater marvels of skill and endurance, handle an instrument of more subtle delicacy and power, or accomplish results more creditable in proportion to the difficulties involved? The most

vigilance of writers, they are also among the most patient of tailors, the most dexterous of experts, the most nice-fingered of craftsmen, the most uncomplaining of the heavily burdened, the most self-sacrificing of the devoted servants of duty. None receive so little appreciation for the talent and effort they employ. None follow an occupation that so completely engrosses time and thought and to whose imperious demands all else must give way.

A familiar writer, W. R. Alger, has given us a brilliant chapter on what he calls the "solitude of occupation," and presents many striking illustrations of mental absorption at its climax, but fails to instance the extreme engrossment of a stenographer engaged with rapid testimony, which he must read *impromptu* in a few minutes to the public, unconscious alike of an attempted interviewer, a lawyer who is monopolizing his desk, and an open window admitting a December's storm upon his devoted head. Setting a nicely-trained man to accomplish a task thickly crowded with difficulties, and then surrounding him with conditions that make its execution well nigh impossible, (as used to be done in court rooms), is a thing that happily pertains rather to the past than to the present.

Nothing taxes the patience of the expert phonographer more than to hear his work called "mechanical,"—as though it were only the dry and tedious business of the copyist,—as though it were an affair of the fingers only, and did not, like the painter's colors, have to be "mixed with brains" to make it achieve success. Of course, one may make it "mechanical" if he chooses. But such reporters, I fancy, are rare. We all find a real zest in our employment. Speakers, indeed, are often tedious. But if they give us no mental pabulum we can make it for ourselves. Burns is related to have composed a poem while binding up his harvest-sheaves, in order to lighten the task. Every kind of toil seeks and finds its alleviations. "Picking cotton" is sometimes instanced, in simile, as one of the most listless of occupations; but probably the pickers, or their overseers, find means of enlivening even that. So an hour's cross-examination as to a coat's shade of color may be wearisome to the flesh; but even that abominable iteration may be turned to practical account in other ways than in piling up folios. The perpetual recurrence of the same words brings to the surface the

lurking phraseogram beneath, and then fastens it in the memory. It teaches some clever "form," that will be useful when the same phrase comes around again. It is but triteness to say that our language is endlessly abundant in these helpful phrases, available and dear to every phonographic pencil. It is our province to break that language up, so to speak, into its *laminae*—to dissect out of it as many as possible of its facile word-groupings. We may list them by the thousand and never list them all. Each new one, well assimilated, is a new prize and a new power. Even a dull sentence may bear that kind of "a precious jewel in its head." The otherwise tedious repetition is what makes the jewel our property forever. Excellent results might be accomplished were the members of our associations to interchange, from time to time, the new and ingenious phraseograms that come to their notice. A monthly leaf from a brother's note-book might lighten future toil by the suggestions it supplied. Our art is one capable of indefinite improvement and expansion, and this is only one of the ways in which we might help one another to perfect it. Common speech really comprises but a few thousand words. New opportunities of uniting them are constantly presenting themselves. The vocabulary of the court-room, aside from scientific terms, is not, after all, so enormously large. Years of work there will make one familiar with every part of it. The study of legal phraseology, from the phonographer's standpoint, ever reveals new capacities of condensation. The phraseology becomes speedily converted into phraseography. While such matter is full of legal phrases, experience ever shows it capable of new and still newer word-joinings aside from strictly legal phrases. A copious compilation of the best of these could be prepared with little difficulty by the method above suggested. Every year's reporting teaches new possibilities of such facile combination and reduction. However much we may have written, we are constantly making improvements in our ways of writing.

Another way in which our toilsome life may be made one of perpetual interest is by the observant study of principles inherent in language and in the English language. Sympathy with this study is created by our employment. Modern stenography is the result of much research concerning language. It is a subtle,

thought-compressing, cultured science. There is *learning* in it, as well as genius and invention. It could not but have been the product of an immense amount of study and investigation. It is affiliated with all other studies and investigations that have to do with language in any way. All are related and reflect light upon one another. A studious genius, in my city, once made an elaborate examination of the English language to determine the relative frequency of the use of its words and parts of words. Does anyone doubt that here was helpful matter for the stenographic student and system-maker? Primarily, shorthand writing is to preserve important matters which else would perish with the breath that uttered them. This is its use to society. But it has many uses also for its individual disciple. It teaches him industry, patience, quickness, thoroughness. It helps him in composition. But chiefly it brings him closely in contact with the more cultivated uses of speech, reveals its hidden secrets and supplies an incentive for the close and careful study of all that pertains thereto. Whatever elucidates that subject will be always sought and always helpful.

In the first place, no one hears so many of the world's great talkers as the reporter in the full practice of his profession; no one reviews them so delicately or has such opportunities of comparing one with another and of noting peculiarities of style.

I may say here that one of the facts disclosed by forty years' reporting of public speakers is the marked tendency towards greater simplicity of expression. Involved sentences, a Johnsonese dialect, big words to say little things, are not tolerated as they once were. Conciseness and condensation, as elements of style, have largely taken the place of "classicism." It is not so much stateliness as incisiveness that is sought. Who ever hears now-a-days the words "irrefragable," "impeccable," and all that class? They have been thrown entirely away. Yet they used to be of frequent occurrence in discourses. The axiom of the modern speaker appears to be that to talk effectively one must talk tersely. Compare Sumner with Parkhurst. Compare the elaborate periods and showy rhetoric of the speakers of our earlier reporting days with the crispness, pointedness and compactness of any modern orator who really gains the public ear.

Let it not, however, be supposed, that there is any diminution in the power or the plentifulness of impassioned eloquence. Great occasions call forth as fervid utterances now as ever. And the need of means for their preservation remains the same. Some one says of the orators of our revolutionary period that the overwhelming results produced by them cannot be now understood, because the reporting talent of the day was inadequate for their reproduction. But modern reporters could easily have preserved them. There is no fear that losses of that kind will be hereafter sustained by the world. The effects produced by our great speakers, at momentous crises, will be completely apprehended by posterity. The stenographic report, in the daily newspaper, will fully image to the historian the things so grandly said. To become the medium for the transmission of such pregnant words is one of the happiest offices to which the reporter can be called.

But it is to the study of language itself, quite as much as of speakers, that we are impelled by our vocation. Bringing us so closely and constantly into contact with the resources of our native tongue, it cannot fail to make us careful observers, and indeed, to a certain extent, connoisseurs, in relation to its use by all. It leads us to philosophize deeply concerning its richness and strength,—to wonder at its adaptations to meet all the needs of the mind and of every mind. It impels us, more critically than others, to inquire into its structure. Areas and tracts of it which few readers ever traverse are presented to us in the course of a professional lifetime. The technical vocabularies of the sciences, and the mechanical trades, and the learned professions, we constantly have to write, as understandingly as we may. There is hardly a variety of race, calling or character that we do not encounter upon the witness-stand. What quaintness of speech among these strange samples of strangely assorted humanity! Each of us has his many anecdotes to tell of the comical traits he is constantly observing in courts, and the comical expressions he has to catch. The case may be as dry as a husk; but somebody's peculiarities of speech will enliven it each day. How quickly we recognize the appearance of the novel and telling word! Such endless masses of diction perpetually pass under our fingers that we at once discriminate what is rare or strange or specially fitting

or impressive. The study of words is one peculiarly affiliated with our pursuit. Few critically analyze so many thousand sentences. There is also, I think, a technical sensitiveness in this matter that belongs to the phonographer alone. With no one else do the processes of thinking and writing approach so near together. They are so wont to be simultaneous that they take on very close relations. Thus a new sort of sense is conferred,—a faculty of use and discernment of which others are unaware. The hand keeps pace with the thinking. The thoughts shape themselves for the pencil. Sentences committed to our characters lie so compactly that they are handled most quickly and conveniently. One thoroughly penetrated with this phonographic power will use it for purposes of which others have not conceived. Speeches may be phonographed mentally, and mental processes phonographically assisted.

Each trade is busy with some special thing. Ours is busy with words. We are never rid of their company. So we make friends of them and note their qualities. We scan them and find them full of interest.

The first interesting thing to me about words is their etymology. This sentence of Coleridge expresses a great truth: "In a language like ours, where so much is derived from other languages, there are few modes of instruction more useful or amusing than that of accustoming ourselves to seek for the etymology or primary meaning of its words." How interesting to know that "pamphlet" originally meant "bound by a thread;" or "parlor" "a place for talk;" or "sierra," "a saw;" or "sarcasm," a "tearing of the flesh"! "Knowledge of more value may be conveyed by the history of a word than by the history of a campaign." I think this is a study which will relieve the monotony of the reporter's task. Words are living things. They are often grand and pictorial things. By a little study of the languages from which they come and a little reading of what the best writers have said about them, their eloquence may be made fully apparent to us.

As in a geologic past the world was built up by successive epochs of contending elements, so our language has grown up from great historical causes,—conquests and revolutions, commo-



tions and contentions, extending through many centuries. The law of the survival of the fittest has evolved from these a structure of wonderful power and versatility. The fusion of many bloods made the most vigorous of races, and the blending of many tongues made the most copious and expressive of languages. Says William Swinton, "The divine tree of English speech has grown up into its sublime proportions nurtured by the history of a thousand years." The historical and political causes of this development we can thoroughly understand and clearly trace. We can discover their forming influence in the grammatical structure of English, in its idioms and phrases, in its genius and spirit and in the texture of its words. What are some of these events and causes? The tale is very familiar, but worth re-telling. I will condense the briefest statement I can find. "The ground-work of English," says one, "is the language of those Teutonic tribes who in the fifth and sixth centuries overran the greater part of Britain, —primarily the Angles and the Saxons. There were differences of speech among them, but these were unified. Few British or Roman words were retained. A thin stratum of Latin was laid upon this foundation by early missionaries. Next followed the invasions of the Northmen and the Danes. Their dialects, to some extent, coalesced with and modified those of the earlier conquerors. Then came the conquest of the Normans, who had been settled long enough in the north of France to acquire its language. Norman-French became the speech of the ruling race in England, enforced in its schools and its courts and employed everywhere by its influential and noble classes. But the Norman Conquest did not exterminate the Saxons or suppress their language. They were greatly in the majority and were permitted to speak their native tongue. The two languages were long kept distinct, but at length became inseparably mixed." Through much of this period the Saxon and the French were being enormously interfused with the Latin. Reading and writing, mostly the work of ecclesiastics, were mainly in that tongue. When, in the fourteenth century, the varied populations of England became fused into one, their speech became fused also. From the fierce conflict of rival elements that had so long seethed and struggled together a new speech was evolved, entirely distinct from those of the rest of

Europe. The writings of a few men of genius, like Chaucer, the wide circulation of a few great literary productions, at this pivotal period, were largely influential in moulding the then plastic materials. The speech that had thus become stamped as distinctively English has been wrought upon by an immense number of agencies in the intervening centuries. With the spread of learning and intelligence and the necessities of a great and ever growing literature, what was crude and chaotic became refined and methodized. By the great writers whose works became literary standards and the labors of great students whose lives were devoted to research and compilation, what was vague and discordant became fixed and formulated. An enormous multiplication of both writers and readers has spread throughout the English-speaking nations the convenient obligation of an established usage. Each succeeding year the advent of new millions more widely extends and more firmly binds the sway of accepted law.

All etymological writers most impressively call to our attention the fact that "no language was ever composed of such numerous and such diverse elements as our own." From an immense variety of foreign sources thousands and thousands of individual words have come, and are forever coming. But the Latin has supplied by far the largest foreign element. In a strange manner, at periods many and widely distant, from the earliest history down to modern days, it has flowed into and permeated the great body of our speech. Fully one-third of our words come more or less directly from it. The Greek has also been profusely used in naming objects and operations more remote from common life. Hence a knowledge of Greek and Latin so immeasurably helps the English reader and student. It is a ready guide to the signification of tens of thousands of English words. Nothing so enhances the pleasure of reading or the profit of study, or so enlivens speech with perpetual suggestiveness as does an early and thorough training in the classic tongues. The force and beauty of words are but half understood without it. And this applies quite as much to such as are commonplace as to such as are of rarer popular use. It everywhere discovers to us associations clear and helpful and lights up the most familiar terms with an interior radiance. Classical studies are as important in our day as they have been in any day,—because

the classic tongues lie so near the foundations of our own. Familiarity with the one makes the other luminous throughout and in a myriad ways helps us to use it understandingly. The testimony of one at least will be here given that it has been by far the largest contributor to the literary enjoyments of a lifetime. Says a brilliant writer in discussing the use of apt words: "The value of classical literature as an instrument of education has been decided by an overwhelming majority of persons of culture. We cannot without prejudice to humanity separate the present from the past. The nineteenth century strikes its roots into the centuries gone by, and draws its nutriment from them. Our whole literature is closely connected with that of the ancients, draws its inspiration from it, and can be understood only by constant reference to it." These are words whose force and truth will be recognized by every student of the subject.

The lesson that I derived from the above meagre and imperfect sketch of the growth of our language is the impossibility of reducing a thing so complex and composite within the scope of any newly-adopted rules or schemes. We must be content with its methods as we find them. They are the result of the accumulated growth and the accumulated wisdom of ages. They cannot be squared by any new formulæ of our own devising, or recast in the matrices of arbitrary system-makers. Voluntary effort to modify them will accomplish little. What the slow processes of nature have formed, the like slow processes alone can change.

To thus make words our friends and know them intimately is to heighten the pleasure of every book and of every literary exercise. The most pleasing and impressive writers are those who understood word history best and were most skilled in the nicer refinements of our vocabulary. To feel the force of all there is in their pages we must partake of the same kind of knowledge and hence derive the same discriminating instinct. Every linguistic study adds power in this direction. It gives clearer apprehension and broader vision, and thus contributes alike to the pleasure of reading and the resources of expression.

The statement that a certain part of the history of a word is not present to the mind when it is read, I must entirely dissent from. I think the general experience of readers will refute it.

One might as well deny the sensing of certain chords in a strain of music. They may be indistinct; but they are real. Those who claim not to be conscious of etymology when they read cannot, if they speak truly, fully enjoy what they read. Of course, it is not a thing sensed in every word, or always, perhaps, in the majority of them; but immense numbers of literary words do constantly yield that gratification to even the casual reader. The historic association is too clear and too delightful to be ignored. It is literature that gives character and permanence to language, (as it does zest and solace to life,) and the more the nativity of a literary word is recognized the more forceful and eloquent does it appear. Adjectives, for example, derived from the names of persons and places famous in history, mythology or the annals of heroism,—do we get the force of them at all without being conscious of their origin? Where, for instance, would be the significance of such words as “Protean,” “tantalize,” “Titanic,” “Cyclopean,” “Cytherean,” “halcyon,” “psychical,” “Bacchanalian,” and a myriad others, if we knew nothing of their story? Imagination and poetry are essential ingredients in language. Words of classical origin show their genesis clearly and invariably. And there is a meaning more deeply veiled, a secret fund of knowledge, a refreshing tinge of metaphor, a trace of respected ancestry, lying beneath the surface of almost any literary word we may choose to examine. Trench, of all writers most strikingly shows this in his very familiar book on the “Study of Words,” which all may read with intense pleasure. It is not long or dry, but grand and delightful, and is probably without equal among popular treatises on this subject.

A like entertaining and handy volume is Professor Swinton’s “*Rambles Among Words*.” It is indeed a rich museum of hoarded word-treasures (by the dear old school-book maker),—exhibiting much of their poetry, history and wisdom. Presenting its instruction in a unique and engaging form, it will prove a most profitable companion for leisure hours. He says: “The fullness of meaning which words enwrap is indeed more than all that was said or thought. Children of the mind, they reflect the manifold richness of man’s faculties and affections. We possess in speech a great recorded history of humanity. Over the transformations of a language the genius of a nation unconsciously presides.”

Canon Farrar has in his profound works on language-study many most entertaining chapters, particularly those on metaphor as an element in etymology. He ingeniously shows its presence in the most simple and prosaic terms. The books are packed with matter—grand in reasoning, careful in generalizations, sagacious in conclusions.

Dr. William Mathews shows in a most charming volume a marvellous power of making stories about words fascinating. In one place he says: "Life with its inner experiences reveals to us the tremendous force of words and writes them upon our hearts. Hundreds indeed pass through it who feel not the weight of the commonest terms; but to others their mighty significance comes home like an electric flash. Many thoughts have baffled for generations every attempt to give them expression, until some lucky genius clutched the floating phantoms and dragged them from the skies to earth."

"Speech is morning to the mind.  
It spreads the beauteous images abroad  
Which else lie dark and buried in the soul."

Alexander Young defines it, in the delightful old school-book of fifty years ago, as "that curious and wonderful contrivance, by which the fleeting breath becomes the index of the soul, the divulger and interpreter of the invisible thought, the transcript of the unseen emotion and the great bond and medium of social intercourse." It is this great phenomenon of human existence, this universal vehicle of thought, that we, speech-conservers, are specially called upon to investigate. Whatever is to be known about it, it is supremely fitting that we, of all others, should know. None so constantly as ourselves are constrained to note its marvels, its affinities for the mind, its compass and complexity. As a subject for philosophical study, nothing can have an interest more immediate and profound for those whose lives are forever busy with it and whose fingers essay to travel in its company.

There is a broader study than that of the history or the peculiarities of any individual language, that may fittingly occupy us. Language itself, the greatest miracle of nature, the best boon of heaven to man, whence came it? What has been the course of its progress from the earliest ages? How has it been transmitted

from one people to another? What are the necessary conditions that everywhere attend it? Why does it belong to man alone? How does the vocal organism give it utterance? To what laws of change is it subjected? What facts have we concerning the origin of alphabets? How are they related to one another? How have they been modified during three thousand years of the world's progress? How are languages most appropriately classified? Into what families do they divide? How are they distinguished as to vocal peculiarities and from what causes do such peculiarities arise? What relative powers of expressiveness do they possess? What are the approximate numbers of words in their several vocabularies? These and such as these are questions which the nature of our employment peculiarly inclines us to ask. They open endless fields for discussion of a kind that is specially attractive to ourselves. Compelled to analyze language in one or two particulars, we are led to examine it in many others. Business-wise, it is true, our studies take a more practical aim and direction. The overcoming of practical difficulties which writing needlessly imposes is our especial problem. But that resolved, more liberal studies invite us and more philosophical inquiries interest us. The answers to these inquiries are given by an immense number of learned writers. There is no dearth of means to satisfy our curiosity. If we may not make discoveries for ourselves, the endless story of such discoveries has been opened to us by others. Time would fail to name the works from which we may learn the uttermost concerning such matters. They crowd the alcoves of our libraries. Side by side with them stand the less bulky but not less useful treatises of our stenographic authors,—the originators of means for the facile recording of all that is said and thought. The science of language and the practical art of most quickly writing it are mutually helpful. One enlarges the bounds of knowledge. The other lightens toil and gives the world increased facilities for the conduct of its affairs. The speculations of the learned in these matters are therefore refreshing and profitable to all who follow our calling. And while we find these authors often defending the most opposite theories, the controversial element but serves to give them piquancy and flavor.

The grand and thoughtful lectures of Professor Whitney will be

found most acceptable reading by all who are attracted to these subjects. We cannot but enjoy his masterly discussions upon the development of language and the manner in which we acquire it. Miller's magnificent works, as perspicuous as profound, will be read by every language-student with unflagging interest. They are priceless possessions to mankind. They enlighten us as nothing else can do. There is no author by whom they are not mentioned and their authority invoked. Most delightful is it to trace through his many books the march of the Aryan speech from its Indian home, to feed the tongues of ancient Italy, Germany and Greece, and thereafter permeate all the cultivated languages of modern Europe.

Of Richard Grant White it must be said that he is the most racy and readable of all etymological writers. We can do no more than to urge all to read especially his books called "Every day English" and "Words and Their Uses," guaranteeing that whoever takes up either of them will not lay it down unfinished. Professor De Vere's "Studies in English" comprise also a series of noble essays, replete with knowledge. No one more successfully or in happier phrase exhibits to us the inner life of our native speech or the power that it has gained from the mingling of many dialects. His chapters on the "Elements of English" are full of entertainment and instruction and give more clear and definite conceptions of the matter than can elsewhere be derived. They emanate from one whose life-studies peculiarly fitted him to speak intelligently and authoritatively regarding the whole subject. As coming from one whose inheritance was an alien speech, the following testimony is striking: "Boldly and freely the Englishman uses his native tongue. Boldly and freely it proclaims him abroad, by its simple forms, its nervous power, its deep meaning. It never forgets its own dignity, its noble descent. It has an ancestry unparalleled in the history of languages. It is heir to all the greatness and all the power of the two idioms that represent the two ruling races of Christendom. The simplest of all languages in form, it is the most spiritual in its mode of expression."

Skeat and Champneys and Earle and Strong and Marsh and Latham and Mackay and LeFevre will furnish refreshing reading when we are sated with the authors that I have already named.

By taking up any one of them, the reader will soon become fascinated with the whole subject. It is a department of investigation that will pleasantly fill any hours not otherwise appropriated.

But perhaps I am wandering away from the purposes of your society and your meeting. These are rather the consideration of stenographic interests than of collateral studies. Let me, therefore, say again, what I have said before and what I think cannot be gainsaid, that the stenographer follows a calling capable of evoking strong enthusiasm; that the practice of his art brings him many much-prized experiences; that it is an art of great beneficence to mankind and certain to prove of ever extending utility; that it enables one to rescue from oblivion the most fugitive thought or utterance; that it supplies the world's great need of an easily apprehended method of rapid writing and speech-recording; that it provides a simultaneous means of registry for whatever is received by the ear or conceived by the mind; that it confers a power the value of which will be attested by every one who has attained it; that it enables each proficient to preserve for reference and study whatever he chooses of the things he hears; that by it intellectual productions of the highest order are preserved from perishing, winged words overtaken, thought-laden accents stamped into permanence, and writing made as involuntary as respiration. For these reasons we are proud of it, and thankful for even this brief respite from its toils to utter a few words in its praise.

**CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY:** I am sure we are a unit in extending to Mr. Gardiner our thanks for his most interesting, able and valuable paper. If there are any remarks to be made concerning the paper in general, or upon any point in particular, we shall be pleased to hear them.

**MR. ANDERSON:** The only remark I wish to make is this: I think the association is indebted to Mr. Gardiner for this exhaustive, instructive and finished paper on the subject, and when it comes to be printed (as I trust it will be) in the proceedings of the association, I think that our absent friends perhaps may be moved to make more effort to attend these annual gatherings than they seem now to make.

Chairman Heffley announced the following committees:



Admission of New Members—Mr. Peter P. McLoughlin, Miss Etta A. Emens, Miss Sarah A. Moore.

Nomination of Officers—Miss Ballantyne, Mr. Law, Mr. Anderson.

Place of Meeting—Mrs. Clara E. White, Mr. Sidney C. Ormsby, Miss Etta A. Emens.

Committee to formulate an act to be presented to the Legislature relating to the licensing of stenographers to practice their profession in the courts of this state—Messrs. Dickinson, Bishop, McLoughlin, Osgoodby, Rose.

Convention adjourned, on motion of Mr. McLoughlin, till 9:30 the following morning.

### THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, August 23, 1895.

VICE-PRESIDENT HEFFLEY: In view of the fact that 9:30 was the hour set for the session this morning, and as it is now 10 o'clock, I think it best to proceed with the regular order of business without formality.

The Committee on Admission of New Members reported favorably on all the names presented for active and honorary membership, recommending that said persons be elected to membership in the association, and a motion to that effect prevailed.

The Secretary read the following letter from Col. Dickinson:

FERNCLEIFF, WOLFBOBO, N. H.,  
August 18, 1895.

*Dear Mr. Hill:*

I may be permitted to say a word in regard to a matter which seems to me important in its bearing upon the success and usefulness of the association. I refer to the annual change of presidents of the association. A president does not get a chance, to use an army phrase, to "get settled in his saddle" before he has to dismount to let some other man take his seat. I know that when I was the president of the association, I felt that there were many things I could accomplish, if I *only had time*. I did get the executive committee together three or four times; and some things were discussed, but in obedience to the unwritten law of the association,

after my year of office had expired, I gave way to my successor, who, by the way, never attended a meeting after his election.

I think that we should give our presidents a *chance*. Let them show that they intend to do well by the association; and then don't "muster them out of service" before they have time to carry into effect a single plan. If the association held meetings every day, or twice a week, or at some often recurring periods, then it might be a wise thing to confer the honor upon a new man each year. But with a year between reunions, and only two days of session; and a "constituency" scattered between Buffalo and Brooklyn, it is not fair to expect a president to do anything except "preside." And we all know there are a great many things that he might do; and some which he ought to do.

For instance, for I hate the method of stating generally, and not frankly and explicitly—I am persuaded that the time is not very far distant when we officials will regret that there is no large, well-organized body of stenographers in existence, to oppose, or favor, legislation which may affect us and our courts. Now, it was a plan that I wanted to attempt to carry out, to get by personal application, if need be, or by any other means that I could adopt, every official stenographer in New York state to join the association. Not that they must attend the meetings, or write essays, but that they should be members in good standing, so that if the time came when such an association was called upon to express the opinion of the leading stenographers of the state, the imposing array of active and influential and prominent stenographers upon our membership list would add weight to anything emanating from us; and, on the other hand, when any of these stenographers had anything of value or importance to urge, there should be a powerful instrumentality at hand through which, if found worthy, it could be formulated and insisted upon.

I do not think that this needs any argument. Let us suppose that the New York State Stenographers' Association had upon its list of active members the name of every official stenographer in New York state; what a tremendous influence such a body of men could wield when the occasion offered. An influence far greater than any new association could hope to have; because this association has nearly twenty years of history to its credit, and some of it very creditable history, too. With its prestige, its seniority, and with such a membership, its influence would go far to obviate the necessity for any legislative protection. It need not hold meetings any oftener than now. Its members need not be bound to attend any more than now. But its executive committee could be enlarged; and the president by a wise selection could so centralize its members that it could be speedily got together. Upon the president might be conferred a few additional powers, to the end that prompt action could be taken if need be. The gentlemen who framed the constitution and by-laws of the association did well. I am and have been a member of very many organizations, civil and military, and I do not recall one where the organic laws were so "elastic," so to speak; where they could be adapted to a large or a small organization so readily as in our association. You need no reconstruction or reorganization. You

want members on your roll; you want the names of those men who are well and widely known; some of them you have, all, or almost all, you ought to get.

That was my hobby; but the time was too short to accomplish such a task, and I realized it. Then, too, there were other matters during my term of office demanding the attention of the executive committee, which those who served on that committee will recall. So that some "things were left undone which should have been done."

My suggestion is, and it requires no change of by-law or constitution, that you keep your presidents as long as they will *serve you well*; and let the nominating committee in their selection, which (under the happy conditions of harmony which now prevail, and which I trust will continue to prevail) is equivalent to an election, choose a man for president who will be willing to make his presidency mean something and amount to something more than we who have held the office have been able to do in the past. And let the man who accepts the presidency do so with the tacit understanding that it is not an empty honor; that he pledges himself to *do* something in the way of making the association what it ought to be, and what in my opinion it could be,—a powerful, a critical, an alert and watchful body of thoughtful men and women *workers*. This is no enthusiast who is addressing you. It is a man who has spent a quarter of a century in finding out how little in stenography there is worthy of enthusiasm; *and who has found it out*. A man who has been good-naturedly (I suppose) designated as a pessimist; a designation which is partly accurate and partly "assumed," like the questions which the young lady to whom I referred some time back "made up" from the answers she got.

This all can be accomplished, if the association will take it in hand. An increased membership will mean an increased attendance. It will mean greater interest; the more there are who *should* take part, the more there will be who *will* take part.

The pecuniary burden is not heavy, and with an increased membership, one with a determination to accomplish something or other, worthy of accomplishment, on the part of every, or nearly every member, the "*dry rot*" will be replaced by sound material; and the association will become in *fact*, what it has been in name, an influential, a dignified and a powerful body, whose approval all stenographers would seek to win; whose censure no stenographer could afford to incur or disregard.

Very sincerely and fraternally yours,

EDW. B. DICKINSON.

CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY: You have heard the suggestions made by Col. Dickinson, as read by the secretary, respecting the departure from our former practice in the matter of the presidency. I presume the communication is open to discussion and we shall be glad to hear from any member present.

## PHONOGRAPHY IN THE NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BY PROF. WM. L. MASON.

Though true and worn well nigh threadbare by frequent use, the aphorism that "nothing succeeds like success," may appropriately be used as the text of a paper on "Phonography in the Public Schools." For many years, and in different parts of the world, the idea of teaching shorthand to boys and girls of the higher grammar school grades has been discussed, and in many places adopted, so that to-day, the study of stenography is becoming a part of the curriculum of the board schools of Great Britain, the government schools of several European countries and the public schools of many large cities on the American and Australian continents. Sporadic attempts have been made in the same direction in New York city in past years, and up to within a few months have been moderately successful, but in the fall of 1894 the subject was actually introduced into the second year commercial or supplementary grade and subsequently (March, 1895) in the first year of the same grade.

It has long been felt by certain members of the Board of Education of this city that there was a need for instruction along practical business lines to meet the deficiency caused by the non-existence of regular high schools. Accordingly, the Board passed a resolution some time in 1893 to establish a two-year course supplementary to the grammar school course for those pupils, boys and girls, who were looking forward to a business, rather than a professional life. For this supplementary or non-college class the following schedule of studies was arranged:

### FOR THOSE NOT DESIRING TO ENTER EITHER OF THE COLLEGES.

1—English—Eight hours per week.

Reading—The later American and English standard authors in prose and verse, with short biographical sketches of the most important ones.

Elocution—As in subdivision (a) synonyms, the discrimination of 40 sets whose meanings are frequently confused. Composition—As in subdivision a with business correspondence. Gram-

mar—Analysis and synthesis; the laws of syntax in connection with the criticism and correction of compositions.

2—Arithmetic—Two hours per week; as in subdivision *a*.

3—Book-keeping—One hour per week; Hill's two books.

4—Civics—One hour per week; Dole's (by reading and talks).

5—Commercial Geography—One hour per week; Tilden's Commercial Geography, complete excepting foot-notes.

6—History of the United States—One hour per week; by use of Supplementary Historical Readers.

7—Drawing—Two hours per week as in subdivision *a*; also mechanical—elements of architectural drawing.

## SECOND YEAR.

FOR THOSE NOT DESIRING TO ENTER EITHER OF THE COLLEGES.

1—English—Eight hours per week.

Reading—Earlier English authors (17th century) in prose and verse, with short biographical sketches of the more important ones.

Elocution—As in subdivision *a*.

Composition—As before, and including critical essays on books read at home. Words—As before.

Grammar—In connection with the reading and compositions with study of style.

2—Book-keeping—Two hours per week; details as prescribed by committee on course of study.

3—Geometry—Three hours per week; Hill's Plane Geometry completed.

4—Physics—Two hours per week; Shaw's.

5—History—General—One hour per week, (text books).

6—Phonography—Two hours per week; details as prescribed by committee on course of study.

7—Drawing—Two hours per week. Free-hand and mechanical, continued.

8—German or French—Two hours per week, begun or continued.

From this schedule it will be seen that the studies assigned are of a thoroughly practical nature.

This is all very well so far as the regular studies go. But it is not enough to have shorthand taught for one hour a week in the

first year of the commercial grade, and two hours in the second; it should be taught in the city college as well, and type-writing with it in both the lower and higher grades. Two or three machines in each school would meet every necessary requirement, and enable each pupil in the commercial class to have at least half an hour's daily practice.

The question of greatest interest, however, to the members of the shorthand profession is to what extent the teaching of shorthand is applicable to the class of pupils which the New York supplementary course is designed to reach. From one point of view it may be said that it is rather soon to predicate the result of the experiment. The words of a pupil of Grammar School, Number 55 may, however, have a bearing upon this question. In an article written for a souvenir programme of the closing exercises of the West 20th Street School, a member of the advanced commercial class says: "Our class has been but an experiment and all experiments must either succeed or fail. Has the course been of enough advantage to warrant its continuance? Has this experiment succeeded? Every one will agree in answering, yes, and let us hope that it may be carried on in the future with such success as it has been during the past two years. The majority of our class looked forward with pleasant anticipation to the time when we would take up the study of phonography, better known as shorthand. We have made good progress in this science of signs and if anyone wants a stenographer just send to G. S. 55."

So much for the pupil's estimate. The principals and teachers of the various schools in which shorthand has been taught during the past winter have not been silent on this question. I venture to introduce a few opinions from them:

Mr. Samuel Morehouse, principal of G. S. No. 44, says:

A class in phonography has been taught in this school for several months with very marked success. Considering the limited time allowed for this study, it is matter for much congratulation, that so much progress has been made and so much interest manifested by the pupils engaged in this study.

Mr. Jas. B. T. Demarest, Second Ast. G. S. 55 says:

The results have been more than satisfactory, in fact remarkable when you take into account the other subjects taught in the same grade during the same period. Our shorthand teacher's method

is admirable as well as pedagogic. Every new point is fully developed and explained (inductively) before the class is allowed to use the book. He always holds the attention of the class during the entire hour. I can fully commend both the work and the method of the teacher. I have been in the position to judge of both for over a year.

Mr. Bryan J. Riley, 2nd year teacher in G. S. No. 12, says:

Of the work done by the present year teacher of shorthand I would say that his success has surpassed my anticipations. This success I am certain is due to the logical manner in which the subject has been presented. He is an enthusiastic teacher and has been successful in arousing the same enthusiasm in the pupils. They always look forward to the phonography lesson with great pleasure. I am greatly pleased to have the opportunity to say that I consider the work of our teacher of phonography worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Robert J. Frost, 2nd year teacher in G. S. No. 2, says:

The work has been made so interesting and the methods used by their teacher are so comprehensive that the pupils have entered on their work heart and soul. I think the teacher and system a success.

Mr. William J. O'Shea, 2nd year teacher in G. S. No. 75, says:

Our shorthand teacher's work, so far as the character of it and the amount accomplished go, has given entire satisfaction to the students of my class, to the principal of the school and to myself. His methods appear to me to be based entirely on pedagogical lines. The gentleman has always had the attention, the love and the respect of his pupils in G. S. 75. The pupils are never absent, they always cheerfully attend to their home work and heartily welcome the day on which a lesson in phonography is given. In my opinion this teacher's work has been a complete success.

It may be remarked right here that the teaching of shorthand to young fellows in the down town east side schools is not the plainest of sailing nor is the teacher's life there a bed of roses. It is a little discouraging, for instance, to hear a pupil who you feel sure has been well trained, reading from his notes, "His precipices did not accomplish the desired end," mistaking precipices for precepts; or transcribing the word "recommending" as "are under thing." The number of times the public school pupil will mistake "a" for

"the," and vice versa, is not less than one encounters in private teaching. And then when your back is turned to hear yourself referred to in the language of Chimmie Fadden as "'is Whiskers" is enough to upset the gravity of even an experienced teacher and reporter.

The way the boys answer questions is often droll in the extreme. One little chap when asked what paragraph he had been copying from the text-book replied, "Dat's de number of de verse."

It is interesting to hear a whole class reading glibly from shorthand notes Wolsey's conversation with Cromwell, or that matchless passage from the Merchant of Venice, beginning, "The quality of mercy is not strained," while many of those same pupils cannot spell correctly the common word "consonant," or even define it. But that is not the fault of the shorthand, and the special teacher must take these things as he finds them and make the best of them. But wo betide the instructor who goes to his class not well prepared! If there be a weak spot anywhere in his armor the enemy is sure to discover it and make it hot for the victim. One thing, however, is certain in connection with teaching shorthand in the public schools in this city: It would be of great advantage to the average student if the same system were taught in the day and evening classes. Now the Isaac Pitman system is used in the former and the Munson modification in the latter, and while any invidious comments concerning systems of shorthand would be entirely out of place in such a paper as this, the writer's well-known advocacy of the Isaac Pitman method can leave no doubt in the minds of his hearers which of these he thinks should be universally taught.

The successful outcome of this experiment depends largely, it seems to me, upon the special teachers making the pupils like their work, throwing such enthusiasm into the presentation of the subject as will inspire both boys and girls and spur them on to constantly renewed efforts, maintaining a cheerful and encouraging demeanor in the class room and exercising infinite—yes, that is not too strong a word—infinite patience.

I thought I knew how to teach shorthand after fifteen years experience in both public and private, individual and class instruction, but I am free to say that I learned many things last winter which have already proved of incalculable benefit and will no



doubt in the future so prove. What is necessary on the part of both teacher and pupil is thorough, conscientious work all the time and without cessation. If the interest of the teacher flags the interest of the pupil will likewise flag, for the public school boy once aroused on the subject of phonography becomes a veritable leech, determined to get all he can out of you, by fair means or foul.

This is well illustrated by the fact that over 30 boys in one of the downtown east-side schools clubbed together in June and "chipped in" a portion of their hard-earned savings for the purpose of continuing during the summer the study of shorthand, which they had found so fascinating in school. They have met regularly two nights a week in the hottest weather, have faithfully done the work assigned them and have made excellent progress.

The boys are eager to learn shorthand, both in school and out, and it requires very little prodding on the whole to induce the majority of the pupils to prepare their lessons.

The conclusion of the whole matter, therefore, may be given in a few words: The pupils like the study of shorthand and make excellent progress in it. The teachers and principals of the various schools agree that the work of the past winter has proven attractive to the pupils and that they have advanced satisfactorily in the study. They say too that phonography is very helpful along the lines of the regular school work, both in literature and in mathematics. It tends to make the pupil more exact; more observing; more systematic; more attentive. It improves his spelling, refines his pronunciation and increases his knowledge of the use and meaning of words, while at the same time it teaches him concentration. It is not long before a bright boy discovers that shorthand can be made useful in connection with other branches, and he is not slow to take advantage of this fact.

So it is seen that the influence of this one study is felt for good all through the curriculum of the higher grades of those grammar schools into which it has been introduced.

Is not, therefore, a study which produces such results beneficial, and should it not be given free scope in our public schools? This question can have but one answer, and while

"It is not in mortals to *command* success,  
We'll do more, Sempronius, we'll *deserve* it."

**Chairman Heffley:** We have all had great pleasure, I am sure, in listening to this able, interesting and suggestive paper by Prof. Mason. The teaching of shorthand is a subject of great and growing importance, and, it seems to me, it is a question in which this Association should be deeply interested. Its future is fraught with consequences of far reaching importance and can hardly be estimated. We shall be glad to hear from any person present, expressing his views concerning the teaching of shorthand in the schools, or upon any point suggested by the paper.

**MR. GARDINER:** I am very much in favor of the teaching of shorthand in the public schools. I have sometimes been led to think of that branch of study as almost a fundamental one. The art which has been of so much service to us might be rendered of great service to all. Phonography has been introduced as a regular branch of study into the high school of the city of Providence. I do not know, practically, what results have been thus far realized. I have not learned what number of reporters that public instruction has produced; I presume none as yet. But still it cannot fail to be very useful in connection with many other studies. I have had a great desire to ascertain what progress has been made. A few years ago the study of shorthand was introduced, as I am informed, into the grammar schools of the city of Boston. I have never had time to come in contact with the facts about it. But it has been a matter of great interest and curiosity to me always. I regard it as one of the most hopeful and encouraging things in connection with modern teaching.

Messrs. Anderson and Bartholomew spoke in a somewhat similar strain. Prof. Mason volunteered to respond briefly to any questions which might be asked relative to the teaching of shorthand in the public schools. This led to a series of inquiries from different members, which were promptly and satisfactorily answered.

**CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY:** We have a paper presented by Mr. Bishop respecting the decease of Mr. Wyckoff, who was one of our charter members, and one of the oldest and most respected members of our association. May I request Prof. Mason to read it.

The paper was read, as follows:

## WILLIAM O. WYCKOFF.

BY GEO. R. BISHOP.

In that well known piece of classic literature found in Thucydides, the funeral oration said to have been pronounced by Pericles over the ashes of the Athenians who had perished in the Peloponnesian war, the orator is made to begin with a discussion—which at first seems a little remote from the subject—of the advantages enjoyed by his countrymen over the people of any other land. He dwells with fervor on the characteristics of the city, declaring that her political greatness might well inspire each citizen with a lover's enthusiasm for his country. The features which he had in mind were obviously not the chaste grandeur of her architecture, or that picturesque beauty of situation which has woven a spell of enchantment about the hearts of such multitudes of pilgrims from every civilized land, but, rather, the institutions, then at almost their most perfect development, which the men of Attica had built up; under which, he says, the estimate of political capacity depended on merit, not on caste; under which, too, a man who took no interest in public affairs was regarded, not merely as one who minded his own business, but as one unfit for any business at all.

Our friend Wyckoff—whose name, if kept on our rolls, must hereafter be marked with an asterisk to show that we can no longer enjoy his gracious companionship—demonstrated, in his young manhood, the existence in him of sentiments of lofty patriotism, a joyful yielding to the highest convictions of imperious duty; for when, thirty-four years ago, the summons to arms came, that the state might be saved at whatever needful sacrifice, he was among those who earliest responded to that call.

From the folds of the hills of home, high places of Calydon, from the valleys and hillsides of every part of this great Northern land, the columns of high-hearted youth went, filling the ranks; and he, recognized among them as fit for leadership where all were emulous to aid to the uttermost, was chosen to a position of command. Fortunately, in that sanguinary struggle in which a multitude of lives were offered up as a sacrifice, he escaped, and for thirty years pursued, in civil life, a career of such usefulness as those who best knew him would doubtless have unhesitatingly prophesied for

him. Those of us who have known him for a score of years can appreciate how confident they who made this prediction must have been, that here was one who would pursue the journey of life in a spirit of fairness, of consideration for the rights of all, with a recognition of those equitable and moral considerations the due observance of which between man and man insures wholesomeness for the body politic, peaceful neighborhoods, and, almost inevitably, moral soundness along with material prosperity.

It is not my purpose to give, in these few references to the career of Mr. Wyckoff, any complete sketch of that career—for the public journals, and those devoted specially to shorthand, have already given the leading facts; but simply to present a few reminiscences, out of my acquaintance with him of nearly two decades.

I first met him in 1878, at an early annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association. He had been one of the organizers of that body; had been the first vice-president it ever had. The second meeting had been held at Ithaca, where he then, and for years afterward, resided. This meeting of 1878, held at Rochester, was its third—a meeting which I remember with peculiar satisfaction because it was the beginning of my own connection with the association. I remember well how attractive seemed his personality; how manly, how broad-minded, how large-hearted he seemed; what an engaging frankness there was in his manner; how, while he by no means wore his heart upon his sleeve for daws to peck at, he gave one the impression that there was nothing he wished to conceal—no act that he had ever done to any fellow creature which he would not willingly have placed at the very focus point of observation, that the world might see, to the uttermost that it would, whether or not there was anything there to criticise.

He was a member of this association down to the time of his death. At the earlier time of which I speak, he was somewhat more essentially one of us than afterwards, for he was still the senior official stenographer of the Sixth Supreme Court Judicial District, though his mind was evidently much occupied with the invention—then but little used—in connection with the popularizing and exploiting of which his name is now best known. His conviction was profound that machine writing was destined to

revolutionize our methods of producing manuscript. It is doubtful, however, if, even in his most sanguine contemplation, he foresaw how complete that revolution would be, within how short a time it would be effected, or how much to him it would mean as an instrument by which he was to achieve a competence. I will not attempt to say exactly how long it was, after this, that he felt justified in resigning his official position and looking to the business of the typewriter as his sole means of livelihood; but he has described to me his feelings at the time, and his experiences of his last term of note-taking in court before he actually retired; the manner in which, with his mind absorbingly engrossed in thinking of his new enterprise, he was conscious that he was doing his work in a very mechanical, perfunctory way, with but little attention to, or appreciation of, the matter that he was taking; how he counted the days, almost the hours, that were likely to elapse before the end of that term of court; how he feared—and at times almost trembled, as he remembered the way he had worked on—lest he should be called on to read from his notes to the jury, and, as he had been so oblivious to what had been going on, should fail—as he had never before done; how, as day after day passed and nothing occurred to justify his apprehension or break the rather dull monotony of the court routine, he began to feel hopeful that no such call would be made; how it was not made; and how, when the court was adjourned and he put away his pen and finally closed his note book, it seemed to him as if a great load had been lifted from him; as if he had passed a great crisis in his existence—perhaps the greatest; experiencing an exaltation, an exhilaration, such as even a sanguine man feels but once or twice in the time allotted to him. This, of course, was not because he was weary of work; he was not to be idle thereafter; it was because he had faith, a firm conviction, that the enterprise in which he was embarking, or had already embarked—to which he was thenceforth to devote, not merely fragments of his time, but all of it, and all the effort of which he was capable—would be successful, beyond anything in which he had been thus far engaged. He was familiar, from his sixteen years' experience, with the exacting nature of the duties of the profession which he was about to leave, and with hard work; and he would now work on still—perhaps just as laboriously, in another calling—one which he felt had greater promise in it.

Knowing him as I feel that I did, I say, without reserve, that I believe the greatest incentive to him, after all, to make the change—to embark at his time of life on a new business career, was the anticipated result in greater opportunities and comforts for the little family of three who were to remain in Ithaca for some time after he himself came to New York, and who always were the lodestar of his life, the central object about which all things else were compelled to revolve, and to which they were all subordinate.

I remember well the next occasion after the 1878 meeting of this association, on which I met Mr. Wyckoff. I had not attended our 1879 meeting. It was held at Saratoga; and though we hurried away from the White Mountains that I might be present, there was a failure of trains to connect, so that I reached the place just after the meeting had adjourned. But not long after—I think the very next winter—we had, at Delmonico's, our regular annual dinner of the Law Stenographers' Association of the City of New York, to which this body, which had been invited to send delegates, sent, as its representative, our friend from the sixth district. He came; was present at the dinner; and responded, forcibly and with felicity of expression, for his own association. I remember that as he sat at the right hand of the presiding officer, I almost regretted that my own term as president had not been delayed, so that I might have presided then instead of two years earlier, and had him at my own right hand. He was genial, frank and heartily cordial, as usual. I sat at the foot of the table, and, knowing him, was delegated to offer a sentiment for the state association, and to call on him for a response. I presumed a little, in my own remarks, on his good nature, and, considering that his domicile was in a town with so classic a name, propounded a few Homeric questions—some controverted ones, some never before raised, so far as I knew—and asked that he answer them, thus settling some of the vexed questions of classical scholarship. I asked him, among other things, for a more exact description of the craft in which Odysseus came home, at the end of his long wanderings, to Ithaca and Penelope. When he responded he parried these questions with adroitness and appropriate good humor, and then made a manly, cordial response for the body whose representative he was. I remember, too, his suggestion afterwards, and what a

twinkle there was in his eye when he made it, that he thought his superior stature and strength were such that he might venture to settle with me, right on the spot, for having hurled such embarrassing questions at him. I never knew him to meet a sarcasm, or a pleasantry perpetrated at his own expense, in any than the most good-natured spirit; nor did I ever know him to fail to make a suitable retort. On this same visit to New York, he spent several hours at my house—I think on Sunday afternoon just before he left for Ithaca, on which occasion I had a better opportunity for a talk with him about our art, and about the typewriter, than I had before had. As to the latter, his confidence in its ultimate popularity had no doubt grown during the preceding two years. He no doubt borrowed some money quite early in its history; he no doubt put into the enterprise as much as he could raise. He was one whose credit must have been much beyond his prospects of making a very quick return; his high integrity inspired perfect confidence in those who best knew him. He no doubt, for some years, found careful management of his finances and close economy necessary, in order to make his salary and the legitimate perquisites of his stenographic office suffice for the needs of his never extravagant mode of living; he doubtless found it necessary, sometimes, to borrow, from some of the many warmly loyal friends whose faith in him never swerved; but he in time worked out of this condition, and, while he yet practiced the shorthand art, became the owner of a pleasant home in Ithaca. There could have been no fear, at any time, on the part of any one from whom he may have borrowed, but that every debt he might have contracted would be ultimately discharged to the uttermost farthing, if that were within the bounds of possibility.

Naturally, when he came to New York after the formation of his well-known firm, I met him as frequently as the preoccupation of both in our regular duties would permit. As the enterprise into which he had embarked became an assured, and, later, a very pronounced success, I was able to congratulate him, as did all his friends, that perseverance and merit were so soon being appropriately rewarded. He was one for whom his friends would necessarily wish the highest success.

It was after that success had become marked and well-known that this association, in whose welfare he had always taken a lively

interest, accorded him the recognition to which his participation in organizing the body, his prominence as a practitioner of our art and his general qualities of head and heart, had entitled him; a recognition delayed, as many of us thought, much too long; that of electing him to the presidency of the association. The meeting at which he presided was at Alexandria Bay. It was the occasion of the first speed contest,—the one that was held, in a sense, under the auspices of the association; Messrs. Easton and Thornton and myself appointed as a committee to oversee it and make a decision, I myself presenting the report. At this meeting Mr. Wyckoff discharged the duties of presiding officer with dignity, impartiality, and most acceptably.

This was the last of our meetings that he attended. In 1893 I wrote him a personal invitation, which reached him after he had gone to the St. Lawrence for the summer. He sent me an answer, which I received at Niagara Falls, our meeting-place—that his sheep and cows kept him so constantly occupied that he could not possibly get away. The “sheep and cows” in this case were, more than anything else, no doubt, the great villa that he was erecting or preparing to erect on Carleton Island, where he acquired a large tract of several hundred acres; the stone mansion which he saw rise to completion, overlooking the gateway of that noble river; and in which mansion his last hours were spent.

On the occasions, latterly not very frequent, on which I met him after that meeting, I could see, very plainly, that his health was failing. He walked with care, and not with his old time elasticity of step. He was absent from business more and more, down to the time of his very serious illness in the spring of the present year. It was during that illness, but after he had gained so much that he sat up, and talked with freedom and sprightliness, that I last saw him, at his Brooklyn residence. His partner had told me how ill he was, and of the grave apprehensions he entertained respecting his recovery. Mr. Wyckoff, on the occasion of this visit, chatted about his St. Lawrence home, to which he hoped soon to go; showed me photographs of different elevations of it; described the situation of the upper part of the island, and some of its geographical peculiarities. His wife, whom he was destined to survive for about a month, seemed to be in excellent health then. She took a lively interest in what he was talking about, often adding descriptive suggestions of her own. While



we talked, the little grandson was playing about the room. Him the grandfather followed with satisfied and affectionate eyes, occasionally dropping an observation concerning his remarkable qualities. As we talked, and, noticing his condition, I felt doubtful of his ever accomplishing the journey he contemplated, I could not help observing evidences of the affection that existed between himself and Mrs. Wyckoff ; how, though his own hair was almost white, she still called him Will, as she had probably done all the years of their wedded life. It was painful to feel that his tenure of life was so slender ; that these strong yet tender chords of affection were liable to be rudely sundered at almost any hour. We all know the rest :— how they went to their island ; how Mrs. Wyckoff, who had seemed in good health, became suddenly ill, came back to Brooklyn, and submitted to a surgical operation which she did not survive ; how, with what grief no one can know, he came down, after her death, and returned ; how, about a month later, he was himself carried off suddenly, probably carrying little, after her loss, whether he survived or not.

The funeral services were held in Ithaca, in the little church in whose welfare he had taken a deep interest, to the erection of whose new edifice he had generously contributed, besides lending the society several thousand dollars in addition. This society was of the denomination in which William Ellery Channing was a distinguished pioneer in this country ; a denomination whose large and generous faith had been accepted by many of our most eminent poets and men of letters :— by Bryant, the patriarch and pioneer of our distinctively American school of poets, whose stately *Thanatopsis* stands preeminent as a sublime monument of precocious poetical genius ; whose lines to the water fowl which he saw in solitary flight towards its southern winter home—

— lone wandering, yet not lost,

you will all remember as describing an incident which, to the thoughtful mind of the poet, was an evidence of the immanence of a providential care that never wavers or fails ;— the faith held by Longfellow, whose

There is no death ; what seems so is transition,

must have appealed, especially latterly, so forcibly to Mr. Wyckoff ; by Lowell, whose *Commemoration Ode*, with its

O beautiful my Country ! Ours once more !  
Smoothing thy gold of war-diaheveled hair  
O'er such pure brows as never others wore,

must have touched a deeply responsive patriotic chord in our friend's heart; by Holmes, who contemplated a continual growth of the soul, like that of the Chambered Nautilus, from year to year, until, addressing it prophetically, he could say,—

Till thou at length art free,  
Leaving thine outgrown shell by Time's unresting sea.

And so, old friend, we know it has now been with you, even as the genial Autocrat expressed it.

Though always of us, keeping your name on the list with those of our active members; responding, with a few others, with characteristic cordiality whenever there were extraordinary needs,—we may have felt, latterly, when you have been with us, that you were also, in some sense, our honored guest. But we have never been, and we never could have been, like the host “who lightly takes his *parting* guest by the hand, and grasps in the corner.” Our sense of your quality, of the nobility of your manhood, had deepened with the flight of the years during which we have known you; and when your time for departure came, there was not one of us who would not, with all his might, have delayed your going; not one who would not have clasped you to him “with hooks of steel” and held you back.

CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY: We shall be glad to hear from any member who desires to say a few words regarding Mr. Wyckoff. We regret very much that some of our older members who were more intimately acquainted with him are not present to say something concerning him.

If there is no objection, I will appoint a committee consisting of Mr. Robert R. Law, Mrs. Clara A. White, and Mr. Senter H. Ormsby, to prepare suitable resolutions to be presented at a later session.

Secretary Hill read the following resolution, offered by Geo. R. Bishop, Official Stenographer of the New York Stock Exchange, of New York City:

*Resolved*, That we have noted, with deep regret, the announcement of the resignation, on peremptory demand therefor, of Mr. William Anderson, senior stenographer of the Court of General Sessions, New York City, from the position so long, ably and honorably filled by him; and especially that such resignation should have been on the demand of a newly-elected judge who was sup-

posed to be a believer in the merit system of appointment to and retention in public office as expressed in the platform of the Committee of Seventy, but of which principle the demand referred to seems to have been a distinct and conspicuous violation.

*Resolved*, That we heartily commend the general policy prevalent throughout the State, especially in the Supreme Court, of basing appointments to official stenographic positions on fitness and merit, and retaining competent appointees through many changes of judgeship, irrespective of considerations of party or of personal friendship, and which policy seems to have also generally prevailed, until this recent lamentable departure, in the Court of General Sessions.

CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY: You have heard the resolution: what action shall be taken upon the same? It is certainly a question of very great importance to the reportorial profession, and I think it is due that we should take some action regarding it. I would call upon Mr. McLoughlin to express his views.

MR. McLOUGHLIN: It is very embarrassing for me to make any remarks on this subject, inasmuch as I am subordinate to the judge or judges who have taken this action. Of course, I have my own views on the subject, and I do not wish to appear to be a man who is afraid, or does not dare, to say what he thinks. But after consulting with Mr. Anderson—and he and I have been friends for eight years (a friendship that will last for a lifetime)—he advises me that under no circumstances would he have me say anything as to his particular case.

But above and beyond any personal expression of views on this case, it seems to me that this question is one that should be discussed and should be debated, and, once and for all, the question should be settled as to the standing of official stenographers in a court—whether we are to be subject, in the future, to the same unwritten laws governing other appointees in public office or not. It seems to me that we, as a class, above all others, should be retained as long as competent, and during good behavior. I think it is a very vital question to a great many. Of course, some of the official reporters around this room are young men—I, myself, am a young man. I hope that fortune will favor me, in some way, so that I will not be compelled to remain all my life as official stenographer of a court; but if it should happen, as it may with a great many, that we, too, go on in years serving our court faithfully—say for a

period of 80 or 85 years—and if then, upon a sudden change in the judges, we are to be thrown out, without any reason being assigned for it, it would be very unfair and unreasonable.

I believe there are those here who are not hampered by the conditions with which I am surrounded, who might give expression to their views upon this subject.

MR. LAW: I am heartily in favor of the sentiments contained in the resolution. I believe that stenographers should not be removed without some cause, because the best service cannot be obtained unless there is a reasonable certainty of retention in office. I do not know that I can do anything better, Mr. Chairman, than to move the adoption of the resolution.

MR. MASON: In seconding the resolution I would like to say how exceedingly pained I was to read an account of this transaction, and how utterly at a loss I was to understand it, or to explain it, except on the ground that, "It is the unexpected that usually happens."

I am very glad to see that a resolution of this character has been offered in such a body as this, because I feel that the action of the New York State Stenographers' Association will carry considerable weight with it. And it seems to me that the action should not end with the adoption of said resolution, but the matter should be pushed—in some such way as suggested by Col. Dickinson in his paper yesterday, or in some other way that will make it certain that those who are entitled to retain positions, which they have filled honorably and satisfactorily for a term of years, may feel that they are not to be asked for their resignations—to put it in a mild way—at the option of any presiding judge.

Therefore, I heartily second this nomination.

MR. S. C. ORMSBY: It seems to me that an injustice has been done here, like a good many other things that have been accomplished in New York in the name of reform. I am glad to join in seconding this motion, and am inclined to think that we ought to adopt the resolution.

MR. LAW: I may say that in the northern part of the state, from which I come, the rule has universally been to retain men in office who have proved acceptable. In my district, while there is a Republican majority of 15,000 to 20,000, a Democrat has held office

as official stenographer for at least 25 years, and nobody has ever thought that he should be removed because of his politics.

MR. S. H. ORMSBY: I do not know that we will accomplish much good by passing these resolutions, except that we may possibly call attention to a thing that is undoubtedly wrong; and it may be well, in passing these resolutions, for the association to consider the position in which stenographers are at present placed. We are subject to removal without charges being preferred, although we have to pass a civil service examination to secure our places. This is obviously wrong, it seems to me. If a civil service examination is of any value it ought to protect a man after passing it; and it might be well for the association to pass resolutions upon that subject.

It seems to me a great injustice, after a man has devoted the best years of his life to the public service as Mr. Anderson has, that now he should be compelled to look about for other means of employment. Of course, no one can give up an official position and expect to go out and at once get enough private work to keep him profitably employed; and, therefore, a man who has been so many years an official stenographer should be protected from removal by a judge at his pleasure, and without any charges having been preferred.

At this point Secretary Hill read the following communication from Mr. O. C. Gaston, President of Iowa State Stenographers' Association:

The following memorial was reported by the committee on resolutions at the seventh annual meeting of the Iowa State Stenographers' Association, held at Cedar Rapids, July 16-18, 1895, and was unanimously and heartily adopted:

Legislation to protect competent stenographers from being displaced by incompetent ones in court work, has become an urgent necessity, not only to the stenographers of the state, but just as much to lawyers and litigants. This is a matter of great importance. The cases recently brought to our notice by the New York Association and from neighboring states emphatically demonstrate, and open our eyes to the fact, that just such things have, indeed, been done and will be done in our own state, until a law is passed which will prevent the discharge of a thoroughly competent reporter for purely political reasons. Such an important and responsible position, requiring honest work by expert reporters, cannot, as a rule, be satisfactorily filled by giving it in return for party favors. The Association asks for the co-operation of the

legal profession in having such legislation enacted as will amply protect court reporters who are qualified in every way for the work required of them, from removal for insufficient or political reasons; and we ask at the hands of our legislators such action as due consideration of our cause and claims, by thorough and impartial investigation, will in reason justify.

**MR. WILLIAM ANDERSON:** I had an intimation that it was possible that, before the proceedings of our body should terminate, through the kindness of one or two of my friends, some such resolution as has been presented would be offered. I did not anticipate that it would be presented this morning, and, even if it had been offered later, I should not have inflicted upon the meeting anything like a speech.

I have no personal grievance to ventilate here. I appreciate heartily the sympathy of my professional friends and others, which has been verbally expressed to me and in letters received from different parts of the country. While I do not entertain any uncharitable feeling toward the gentleman who removed me, still, I am laboring, necessarily, under the sting of the sudden request that was made upon me. I did not offer my resignation; it was asked for.

You will be pleased to know that some of the most eminent lawyers in New York have kindly pledged themselves to further my interests; so that, while the injustice of the act of removing me cannot be palliated, my friends seem to think that a kind Providence will make it to redound to my benefit in every way.

It will be particularly gratifying to me, I confess, to have this resolution adopted as an evidence of your confidence in my professional skill.

**MR. COOK:** Mr. Anderson has made an allusion to the matter of professional skill. It gives me great pleasure to say that within the last few years a man of world-wide distinction has repeatedly spoken to me of the remarkably fine work done by Mr. Anderson for the last twenty years in reporting conventions which this gentleman has regularly attended. He has spoken of Mr. Anderson's professional work in terms which could not be more enthusiastic or more complimentary; and because of these encomiums from such a notable and discriminating authority, I was the more astonished upon reading of our friend's removal.

**MR. C. F. H. PAGAN:** I move, that this resolution be adopted by a rising vote, as a mark of respect, esteem and friendship.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

## WHAT THE COURTS SAY.

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BY S. C. RODGERS, TROY, N. Y.

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"Twill be recorded for a precedent."

Shakespeare also suggests: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." I am not going to question the wisdom of such a course, but I think they need reforming and then, perhaps, slaughtering. Though the lawyer never wearies of alluding to the princely rates charged for services by our profession, he generally recognizes correct and intelligent work, and as a rule is about as willing to pay as we are to give up an earned commission on a bit of reporting we have "farmed out" when we are fortunate enough to have a conflict of engagements. We are bound to bear in mind that but for litigation a very respectable, numerically at least, section of our profession would be, in Brodie's lingo, "on its uppers." Whatever propensity we possess for the proper *quid pro quo* for our services must have been acquired in the "croaking off" process which has resulted from constant association with lawyers and their ways, most of whom cannot be accused of reluctance in framing an adequately sized bill, and some of whom it has been necessary for the bench to rebuke for inadvertently, probably, adding too many cyphers just by way of using up the ink upon the pen; and in a recent case, even their legal brethren were amazed at the depth to which it was proposed to insert a closing palm upon the remainder of a "fat picking," it being asserted not by a layman but by a lawyer,

that the services amounted, according to the bill, to \$1,600 an hour ! Quite a number of us independently wealthy fellows would be willing to take that as a *per diem*, with even an "evening session" tucked on.

That we are fairly dealt with by the adjudicated decisions is set forth in the following pages, in which I have endeavored to give at least the principal adjudications touching our profession, having a belief that some such compilation in convenient form may be acceptable to the profession. It is not a perfect compendium, for other matters have entrenched upon the necessary research, but you will doubtless pardon if the subject is not as exhaustive as exhausting. In its preparation I have availed myself of the Encyclopædia of American and English Law to some extent, and I hope to bring its scope down to the publication of our proceedings by the addition of any decisions appearing up to that time. While from its nature this paper cannot furnish you any entertainment amid Broadway's uproar, it is hoped that it may be of service in the quietude of your respective offices in future times when a ready reference is required.

I shall not undertake the very great labor of reviewing these decisions, scattered from Maine to California, for the purpose of determining which are overruled, criticised, followed and distinguished, etc., as that labor can be more easily performed by those in the several states interested, having at their command the various decisions herein set forth.

It will be noticed that the courts in their opinions generally draw no distinction between "notes" and "transcripts," and almost universally use the term "notes" where it is very apparent that reference is had to the "transcription" of the notes rather than to the original notes themselves.

Most of the states now provide by statute for the appointment and regulate the duties of official court stenographers, with a general view to securing more rapid and unabating progress in the trial of causes. 88 Pa. St., 217; 84 W. Va., 1.

The case in 84 W. Va., 1, furnishes most interesting reading, and the very anomalous and extraordinary feature in the case is that the presiding judge had certified that the reporter, one C. R. Ball, appointed by himself on recommendation of counsel, turned



out to be not "competent in the practice of his art," as required by statute. The court say they do not see what authority the court has to employ an incompetent stenographer, or to permit such reporter to proceed with his notes after counsel admit his incompetency and on that account engage in taking notes themselves for the purpose of impeaching his accuracy or supplementing his notes by their own.

The legislature and not the constitution created the office of court stenographer, and may abolish, modify or control it, and the appointee takes it subject to that risk, and cannot complain when a new court is carved out of his circuit and a separate stenographer appointed therefor; that the duties are entered upon under oath and may not be performed by an unsworn deputy. 41 Mo. App., 122.

These statutes almost universally place the appointing power with the court; as to minor regulations reference must be had to the statutes themselves.

The term "stenographer" does not come within the common law definition of the word "clerk." 25 Neb., 662.

In the absence of a statute requiring the court to appoint a stenographer, it is not error to refuse to appoint, though a stenographer may be present, and the accused offers to pay his fee. 30 Texas App., 695.

In 20 S. W. Rep., 788, the court in Missouri held that an official stenographer must personally devote his time to the performance of the duties of his office, and where he did not so do but deputized them it was cause for his removal from office. Where he is thus removed he is not entitled to compensation for the time pending preferring of charges and the entry of the order of removal.

In 83 Iowa, 655, it is held that where the trial judge in certifying a bill of exceptions recognizes the stenographer who takes the evidence officially, the stenographer is *de facto* reporter, and the fact of his not being regularly appointed will not avail as an objection to the bill of exceptions.

In Pennsylvania and West Virginia it is declared by statute that stenographers' notes shall be deemed and held official and the best authority in any matter of dispute. 79 Pa. St., 486; 88 Pa. St., 217; 34 W. Va., 1.

Official stenographers' compensation in legal proceedings is either regulated by statute or fixed by the court under statutory authority. (See Laws of N. Y., Pa., Mich. and Cal.) In New York the officials are entitled to varying rates per folio of 100 words, according to the particular court in which employed, and on application will be ordered to transcribe their minutes and present the bill at such rate. 58 How., 184; 289.

In 57 Cal., 650, it was held that no provision of law fixed stenographers' fees generally, and that a magistrate was powerless to fix them according to the standard fixed for official stenographers. Since then by an amendment in 1885 a magistrate can fix such fees, not exceeding those allowed the Superior Court stenographers, which by the California code, section 274, is a sum not exceeding \$10 per day. 88 Cal., 361. This case overrules 68 Cal., 194, which said this mode of fixing the salary was in conflict with the constitution.

The statute in several states provides that the stenographer may demand payment of his fees, or security therefor, in advance. 63 Ind., 327. But in this case it was held that the court might admit the defendant to defend as a poor person and direct that a transcript be furnished him. But this may not be demanded by defendant as a matter of right. 122 Ind., 428. In 58 How. Pr., (New York), 289, it is held that under section 86 of the code payment of fees in advance may be required. But in the same volume, page 184, the Supreme Court held that payment in advance could not be required upon speculation or conjecture as to what his bill might ultimately be.

A county board has no discretion as to the amount due the official stenographer of the Circuit Court, but must pay what the judges' certificate calls for. 48 N. J. L., 70. See 88 Cal., 361.

54 Iowa, 127, holds that under section 3,777 of the Code the stenographer is not bound to furnish a transcript of his notes unless provision is made by the party desiring it for payment of the same.

45 Mich., 47, holds that under the act providing that the appointment may be made for an entire circuit, but that the stenographer cannot receive more than the statutory \$2,000; this should be apportioned among the several counties, and each county is not

required to pay specific sums unless the proportions of such counties towards the salaries shall amount to these sums.

Under 63 Ind., 327, the Supreme Court has no authority to order stenographer's notes to be copied and paid for out of the state or county treasury.

The stenographer of the New York Surrogate's Court, under the act of 1865, is not limited in collecting his salary to the fees paid by that court into the county treasury; if such fees are inadequate the excess is a county charge. 57 How. Pr., 497.

A county is not liable to the official stenographer appointed under the act of 1876 for transcripts unless the same were made by order of court or to be filed in the performance of his general duty, nor is it liable for transcripts furnished at request of counsel, although the same be filed in the cause and constitute part of the record thereof. 98 Pa. St., 570; 102 Pa. St., 479.

By the N. J. acts of '71 and '74 the Circuit Judge may fix the stenographer's compensation for attendance and transcript furnished by order of the court. 49 N. J. L., 485.

The statute of Nebraska, 1877, required the stenographer to furnish on application of any party to a suit a transcript of the proceedings, at a specified rate. A relator convicted of murder in the second degree applied for a mandamus to compel the stenographer to furnish a transcript of the trial, and sought to avoid the provision entitling the stenographer to receive a specified compensation on the ground that being without means the relator was practically deprived of the benefit of the state constitution, and that therefore the transcript should be furnished at public expense. In 8 Neb., 22, the court held that there was no conflict between the statute and the constitution and that the party could obtain the transcript only at his own expense, and that payment could be required in advance.

In the absence of any special contract a stenographer selected as an examiner in chancery did not agree to accept a less compensation for stenographer's services than he was entitled to receive in the state courts for like services. 65 Fed. Rep., (Ind.), 584.

Where the statute does not contemplate that the stenographer shall devote all his time to the public service he may recover for work

done under special contract not coming within his official duties. 63 Mich., 271.

In the absence of a special agreement all the parties to the action are jointly liable to an unofficial stenographer employed to take the proceedings before a referee and furnish parties with transcripts. Where the parties agree that the "successful party" shall pay the whole bill, the party taking up the referee's report is the successful party, and is alone liable for the full amount. 20 Abb. N. C., (New York,) 180.

The attorney for a party to an action has implied authority to bind his client by the employment of a stenographer to take and transcribe testimony upon a reference of a special issue, and the party's instruction to his attorney not to employ a stenographer will not affect the stenographer's right of action where he had no knowledge of such limitation of the attorney's authority. The attorney's authority to employ a stenographer is not qualified by the fact that it is contemplated the testimony should be taken by the examiner and read over to and signed by the witnesses where parties stipulate it may be taken by a stenographer and signed upon the shorthand notes. The stenographer's right to recover is not affected by a direction in the order of reference that the testimony be taken at the expense of the opposite party, *it seems*, even though he knew of such direction. 20 Abb. N. C., (New York,) 308.

A client is alone responsible for the fees of a stenographer employed by the client's attorney. 11 Abb. N. C., (New York,) 448; 64 How., (N. Y.,) 199. The rule is not altered by the fact that the attorney merely requested the performance of the services for his client. 44 N. Y., Superior Ct., 581; 81 N. Y., 159; 12 Hun, (N. Y.,) 584, 660. These cases hold that in order to impose liability on the attorney the attorney must specially agree to be himself responsible. See also 9 Civ. Pro. Rep., 424.

An attorney was authorized to make a special contract for certain stenographic work. The principal was responsible for his attorney's act. The test of the principal's responsibility for his agent's act was not whether it was done according to the principal's instructions to the agent, but whether it was done in the prosecution of the business that the agent was employed to do. 31 Pac. Rep., (Cal.,) 1,115.

*Per contra*, where a stenographer brought action against an attorney upon a bill for services, the court in N. J. held the client not liable, but that the attorney is responsible for all fees or costs and the stenographer is an officer of the court. Pro. of '85, p. 77; 100.

Stenographer's services must be paid for by the person employing him, in the absence of an agreement that both parties shall bear the expense. Phila. Com. Pleas Reps., vol. 2, p. 244.

Where an attorney wrongfully refused to pay the legal charges of an official stenographer it has been held that the court would protect the latter by a summary order against the attorney. 58 How. Pr., (N. Y.,) 184.

After the commencement of a trial it is illegal to exclude the defence on account of the refusal of the defendant to pay his proportion of the stenographer's fees. 41 Mich., 718.

In 22 Hun, (N. Y.) 468, it was held that although a stenographer is not obliged to part with his notes until his bill has been paid, yet if he delivers them to the referee to be examined by him and used as the basis of his report, he may not limit the effect of such delivery, and it is the duty of the referee to file them with his report even though the stenographer's fees are unpaid.

A receiver of property in litigation is personally liable for the fees of a stenographer employed by his attorney to take the testimony upon a reference to state his accounts as receiver. 20 Abb. N. C., (N. Y.,) 818.

Evidence is as necessary to prove a stenographer's contract as any other contract. 27 N. Y. Sup., 50.

When a stenographer renders services at an inquest at the district attorney's request, his fees should be allowed in the coroner's account against the state. 59 N. W. Rep., (Mich.,) 398.

As to payment of official stenographers under certain statutes a proceeding of mandamus was instituted to compel road commissioners to issue a warrant on the treasurer for "seven days' services as official stenographer at \$15 a day," under the act of 1885. On the argument the question was discussed as to whether or not the words "taking down" included "writing out" the notes. Defendant contended plaintiff should be paid only for the number

of days actually employed on the trial, and that it was his duty in certain cases to transcribe his notes without further compensation. The relator insisted that the judge had authority to compensate him for the number of days employed in transcribing. The Supreme Court refused to consider this point, as it was not apparent whether the order was or was not granted for services and writing out the notes, but alluded to it so that the Circuit Judges in future might consider the point when granting orders. 17 S. E. Rep., (Georgia), 968.

Under the act of 1879, where evidence is taken by a stenographer before a circuit court commissioner in criminal examinations, the boards of supervisors are the final judges of proper compensation. 51 Mich., 125.

Each party will be required to pay one-half the charges for stenographer's minutes where required for the use of the court, as provided by section 289 of the Code of Civ. Pro. of N. Y.; 31 Abb. N. C., (N. Y.), 482.

Under the act of 1885 county authorities have neither the right nor the power to audit or otherwise act upon orders of the Superior Court for stenographer's payment. 91 Ga., 621.

Upon a reference the parties failing to agree on a stenographer the referee offered under defendant's objection to take the proceedings in long hand, and then requested a stenographer to officiate, to which request defendant's counsel acceded. The defendant prevailing requested the referee to send the stenographer's bill, which had been lost, to him. It was held that this justified a finding that the stenographer was employed by defendant and entitled to be paid by defendant. 19 N. Y. Supp., 138.

Where the statute commands a county to pay the stenographer it cannot excuse itself from such duty by saying no appropriation had been made. 14 Weekly Notes of Cases, N. C., 74.

Stenographers' fees, as such, are not part of the costs provided for on a reference under the statutes. They are to be considered, if at all, as a part of such compensation as the court shall direct to be paid to the referee. 37 Pac. Rep., 1064, (Oklahoma.)

As to the compensation of an official stenographer after charges are preferred, when he is legally removed by a judge for failure to

attend personally to the duties of his office, he is not entitled to compensation for the time between the preferring of the charges if during such time he did not attend court personally or offer to do so except by deputy. Official stenographers, in Missouri at least, must personally devote their time to the duties of their office. 20 S. W. Rep., (Mo.) 790.

An association of stenographers of which one, if not its leading object, is to control the price to be charged by its members for stenographic work, by restraining all competition between them, is an illegal combination, the rules of which will not be enforced to give one member a right of action against another for under-bidding, although only a small portion of the stenographers of the city belong to it. 140 Ill., 69.

Touching the matter of extra compensation for furnishing "daily copy," I refer to a resume of the proceedings arising out of the Greenfield murder trial, appearing at pages 39-40-41 of the proceedings of this association, 1891; 90 N. Y., 281; cited in 12 Daly, 861.

Action on contract to do certain reporting at 25 cents per folio,—  
See Pro. of '84, p. 83.

Testimony taken upon a former trial of surviving party may be read in evidence by the stenographer who took it down, from his notes, and it need not be in the form of a deposition reduced to writing and subscribed by the party. N. Y. Civ. Pro. Reps., Vol. 1, page 248.

Where the statute fixes the compensation at which an official stenographer must furnish with reasonable diligence a transcript of his notes, an agreement to pay a greater rate for furnishing the same more speedily cannot be enforced. 12 Daly, (N. Y.,) 856.

In Washington state the court stated that if it were required to allow for certain testimony \$250, for a mass of poorly written notes, covering but 346 pages of not over two and a half folios per page, the charge was too excessive to be allowed under the usual cost bill affidavit. The court followed the above decision in *Tingley v. B. B. B. Co.*

A member of the grand jury may act as stenographer thereof,

and receive extra compensation for such service from the county. 82 Mich., 109.

Stenographers of Penn. Com. Pleas of Allegheny county, under the act of '67 are entitled to 15 cents per 100 words for testimony gotten out during a trial, and 10 cents per 100 words if gotten out afterwards. 24 Pittsburg Legal J., (N. S.,) 129.

Under section 6,500 of the Michigan statute the stenographer in case the judge or counsel for either party desire it, must without extra charge or compensation make a "legible transcript" of his notes to be filed subject to the inspection and use of both parties. 59 Mich., 155.

"Taking down the testimony" as used in the Code of Georgia embraces reproducing it "in ordinary and intelligible writing." When not transcribed the compensation is limited to the time occupied in making the notes. 21 S. E. Rep. 144. Following this decision the court may allow \$15 per day for writing out notes in felonies resulting in conviction, but has no authority to allow compensation for such services before they are rendered or for writing out the notes of a mistrial. 98 Georgia, 775.

Stenographic notes cannot be regarded as a "taking down in writing." The court has no power to require the stenographer to translate his notes without compensation. 14 Western Jurist, 344.

On a contest between co-executors over a division of their commissions the stenographer's fees should be paid out of the commissions. 1 Demarest, 357.

Relative to the taxation of stenographer's fees as part of the costs the decisions are extremely numerous, and universally hold them as not taxable.

As this is more particularly of interest to the legal profession, and is a matter of comparative indifference to the stenographer as to who ultimately bears the burden of his charges, I do not think it at all necessary to devote any space to the subject as to when fees are taxable as costs or disbursements.

In passing I would refer to *Mark v. Buffalo*, 87, N. Y., 184, which held that where upon a reference the parties stipulated to employ a stenographer, whose fees were to be paid by them in equal proportion, the expense of an extra copy ordered by the referee for personal use was included in the agreement.



The decisions involving the admissibility and value of stenographers' transcripts as evidence have arisen under varying local statutes, and no general principles can be gathered from them, and the instances where such transcripts as evidence are brought into question are confined principally to cases where the notes have been taken upon preliminary examination and have been sought to be introduced in evidence on the main trial. Under Section 869 of the Cal. Penal Code the stenographer's transcript of notes taken of the examination of a prosecuting witness before the committing magistrate must be certified to be a correct statement of the proceeding and not merely that it is a full, true and correct transcript of the notes. The certificate must be correctly written, and its absence cannot be supplied by parol evidence to make the transcript admissible although it would be a proper course to have the stenographer refresh his memory and testify orally at the trial. 77 Cal., 213.

A transcript of notes taken on preliminary examination and certified as above is upon the same footing as a deposition and is admissible in like cases. 75 Cal., 801. 59 Cal., 843; 66 Cal., 668.

By the California statute on a preliminary examination of a person charged with a felony the stenographer employed to take testimony need not be sworn. 75 Cal., 98. The transcript of the testimony taken on a former trial between the same parties and relating to the same matter may be given in evidence when such witness is dead, out of the state, or unable to testify. This is so even when the testimony is not signed by the witness. 64 Cal., 14; 49 Am. Rep., 679; 43 Mich., 257; 6 C. & P., 380; 25 E. C. L., 447.

Under the California Code of 1870, providing that evidence may be given upon a trial of a witness's testimony in a former action between the same parties when the witness is "out of the jurisdiction," the stenographer's transcript of the former trial should not be admitted when the witness is a resident in the state, though in an adjoining county. 51 Cal., 582.

The stenographer's transcript of the testimony of a party in a civil case cannot, unless by consent, be introduced to contradict him on a subsequent trial of the same case particularly if it is not authenticated. 46 Mich., 95. In this case the court said, "The legislature in providing for the assistance of shorthand

writers did not intend that their notes should have more force than the judge's minutes, and no one has ever supposed that the latter possessed the inherent character of written evidence." See also 44 Mich., 488.

The California Code provides that the report of an official reporter when transcribed and certified as correct shall be *prima facie* a correct statement of the testimony and proceeding. Under this section plaintiff introduced a transcript of evidence given in another suit, but the Supreme Court held that the section did not make the transcript itself admissible, an unfiled transcript not being a public record, but being upon the footing of a private memorandum. 78 Cal., 206.

The testimony of a stenographer as to evidence introduced upon a former trial is competent if based upon his recollection of the evidence itself and not on his notes. 89 Iowa, 461.

Stenographer's notes are not depositions and detached portions are not to be used to impeach a witness on a subsequent trial without first interrogating him as to them. 58 Mich., 285.

The Oregon statute provides that stenographers' transcripts may be read in evidence under the same circumstances as depositions, but they cannot perform the office of a bill of exceptions. 19 Oregon, 585.

The stenographer's transcript of the evidence of a deceased witness at a former trial of the same case is held admissible, although the witness being dumb gave his testimony by signs which the stenographer in his notes described and translated. 57 Vt., 178.

It is held that the transcript of a trial of a suit at law is properly admitted in evidence on the hearing of a bill in equity for a new trial when the stenographer testified that he transcribed the same, that the transcript is correct, and that the witnesses had sworn and testified as therein stated. 79 Ill., 575.

When a stenographer records what a witness has said on a former trial it is not the best evidence in such a sense as to exclude the testimony of an intelligent bystander who has heard and paid particular attention to the testimony of the witness. 15 S. E. Rep., (South Carolina,) 272.

When it is sought to impeach a witness's testimony by showing he testified differently on a former trial, the stenographer who

took the testimony is not the only competent witness. 65 Maine, 466.

A stenographer's transcript of evidence on a former trial cannot be used to contradict the witness on a subsequent trial, the legislature not having declared such reports evidence for any purpose. 61 Ill., 272.

Where one party offers parts of the evidence of a witness given on a former trial to contradict such witness, the other party may put in so much as is relevant, and may cause the stenographer to read his original minutes. 71 Maine, 394.

In Illinois the courts say: "Experience has demonstrated the fact that an expert stenographer can take evidence with very great, if not perfect, accuracy, and this is now the mode almost universally adopted to preserve all oral proceedings in court, and when taken by an expert who testifies they were fully and correctly written at the time, he may testify to his notes although having no independent recollection of the facts therein contained." 16 Bradwell, 229; 79 Ill., 575.

Stenographic notes of a former trial cannot be introduced without having exhausted the best sources of information reasonably accessible to learn whether the witness himself cannot be found; this was so held where the witness's wife was not questioned as to his whereabouts. 47 Mich., 10.

Where testimony is taken by an official stenographer the mere statement of the witness afterwards that he does not recollect giving such statement is not an impeachment of the stenographer's testimony, nor does it justify a court or jury in finding that he did not so testify. 56 N. W. Rep., (Mich.,) 69.

Where a stenographer is sworn as a witness and testifies he took certain notes correctly he may read them subject to cross-examination. 32 Cal., 11.

In an action over, when defendant had received copies of the original action and opportunity to join in that defence, the stenographer's notes of testimony in that trial of a witness, unless deceased, are competent evidence. 20 Dist. of Columbia, 39.

It is competent in order to impeach a witness who has testified at a former trial to produce the stenographer and have him read his notes, after showing that he took them at the time and that they were correct and that aside from them he has no recollection

of what the witness said. 35 Pac. Rep., (State of Washington,) 621.

The stenographer's notes of a witness's testimony upon a former trial may be read to him to refresh his memory, for counsel announced when he first asked to have it read that it was for the purpose of impeaching the witness, which the court refused to allow. 53 N. W. Rep., (Mich.), 788.

Testimony taken upon a former trial of a surviving party may be read in evidence by the stenographer who took it down from his notes, and it need not be in the form of a deposition reduced to writing and subscribed by the party. 1 N. Y. Civ. Pro. Reps., 248.

The stenographer's notes of testimony of defendants on a former trial are admissible in evidence on their trial for conspiracy as admissions on their part, so far as they tend to prove the conspiracy charged. 139 Pa., 388.

It is proper in a criminal case to permit the official stenographer to read from his report of the testimony of a witness since deceased, given on a former trial. 127 Ind., 15.

The official stenographer was permitted to read from his notes the testimony of a witness taken upon the trial of an indictment, and who was beyond the jurisdiction of the court at a previous trial, and it was held that the stenographer's testimony was competent. 5 Colo., 1.

A stenographer's testimony based upon his notes is incompetent to prove the testimony of a witness given at a former trial in a foreign language, and taken from an interpreter by the stenographer. 56 Cal., 119.

Where a witness testified that the testator in giving his evidence upon a certain action was incoherent, and on cross-examination said he had the stenographer's notes of his evidence, and that the stenographer was not sworn, but that the witness said the notes were substantially correct, and on motion of the proponents to contradict the witnesses were permitted to read the notes to the jury, held no error. 31 W. Va., 677.

A certified copy of the testimony of a witness as taken by the official stenographer is competent, and is not in contravention of the constitution. 69 Maine, 400.

A stenographer who took testimony in a preliminary examina-

tion may on a subsequent trial use his notes to refresh his memory when testifying. 68 N. W. Rep., (Minn.,) 100.

Held not error to refuse to allow plaintiff's counsel to read from what he claimed to be stenographer's minutes on a former trial. 99 N. Y., 652.

In the district court of Nebraska the notes of a witness examined in that court are not admissible in a future action between the same parties as documentary or independent evidence. 19 Neb., 511.

When a stenographer read a witness's testimony upon a former trial to contradict him it was held he should have been sworn as a witness as to its correctness. 54 Vt., 83.

A witness examined at a former trial having declared his intention of being absent at the second trial, plaintiff served notice that the stenographer's transcript would be offered as evidence, held that it was not sufficiently shown that the witness's attendance could not be procured, and that the notice was insufficient and could not be sustained. 71 Iowa, 456.

By the act of 1877 it was provided that transcript certified by the stenographer as correct should be *prima facie* deemed to be taken as a correct statement of the proceedings, thereby in effect repealing section 803 of the general laws, which the court hold is done in terms or by implication. 2 Wyoming, 194.

In New York, in *Nolan v. Blodgett*, where the clerk's entry showed plaintiff had been allowed thirty days to make and serve his case, while the stenographer's transcript showed that sixty days had been allowed, the General Term held that the stenographer's notes were the better evidence of what was done.

The notes of evidence taken by a stenographer of a court are *prima facie* evidence only in the court below, and cannot be considered in the Supreme Court. 43 Cal., 176.

The court has no right to consider any fact in the stenographer's notes when such notes are not made a part of the bill of exception. 55 Wis., 575.

The judge's certificate in the bill of exceptions that the reporter stated that he had taken down the charge in writing and had lost it is not a sufficient certificate that the charge was in fact so taken down. The unofficial and unsworn statement of the reporter pub-

licly made long after the trial is manifestly insufficient to show that the charge was taken down by him. 51 Wis., 261.

The stenographer's record should be certified by the judge, the necessity for such supervision being demonstrated by the case in point. The court says that "the art of stenography is not yet perfect; the stenographer was well known as an intelligent, competent and experienced stenographer, but even his notes had not escaped the necessity of personal examination and correction by the judge." 29 Atlantic Rep., (Penn.), 270.

A bill of exceptions may not contain any matter in the characters used by shorthand writers, upon the principle that all pleadings must be in the English language. The characters used in stenography cannot be said to be in the English language. 63 Ind., 327.

In a case within my own observation in New York state the stenographer being unable or possibly unwilling to decipher several shorthand characters, inserted a facsimile of the same in the transcript and so delivered it!

By the Michigan act of 1879 the official stenographer's minutes may be used in settling a bill of exceptions, but it does not give them the character of depositions or record evidence generally. 46 Mich., 95.

In 65 Iowa, 587, citing 64 Iowa, 432, the court held that evidence taken in shorthand can only become written evidence when translated and certified by the stenographer, and that the certificate of the judge alone, who cannot read such notes, is not sufficient.

When a bill of exceptions signed by the judge was a skeleton in form, but unmistakably referred to the transcript of the evidence and directed the evidence thus taken to be inserted, held, sufficient. 61 Iowa, 28.

Although evidence is not preserved by bill of exceptions it may be preserved by the stenographer's report, and when duly certified may become a part of the record on appeal. 73 Iowa, 53.

A transcript certified by the stenographer and inserted in the bill of exceptions in a blank left for that purpose and not designated as the testimony in any cause, although the title was in-

dorsed on the outside of the document, was not sufficiently identified to be considered on appeal. 77 Iowa, 73.

Although the shorthand notes are certified by the judge and the stenographer the transcript is not a part of the record if the type-written copy used by the judge and the long-hand copy made by the appellant's attorney were not so certified. 82 Iowa, 719.

Evidence taken by a stenographer does not become a part of the record until the shorthand notes, together with a translation thereof, are deposited in the clerk's office and duly certified by the judge, and this must be done within the time prescribed by law. 82 Iowa, 781, and 16 other authorities.

Bills of exceptions duly signed by the judge will not be disregarded because the stenographer was not sworn. 76 Ind., 87.

When the report of a stenographer is not clear, showing on its face imperfections, while a bill of exceptions presents in a clear and distinct form just what transpired, the incomplete stenographic notes must be held to be superseded by the bill of exceptions. 57 N. W. Rep., (Iowa,) 903.

The stenographer's certificate that the bill of exceptions contains all the evidence received upon the trial is of no value for the purposes of a certification. 85 Pac. Rep., (Colorado,) 918.

By the Wyoming act of 1877 stenographers' transcripts shall be deemed to be a correct statement of the testimony on a trial but can not take the place of a bill of exceptions, under section 808. 2 Wyoming, 194.

It is not competent for the stenographer to certify that his report contains all the evidence given in the case, as much evidence may be heard which is not given to the jury, or which goes to the court without reading or for legal construction. The statute does not empower him to make any such certificate. 70 Ind., 108.

It is immaterial by whom the evidence has been written out if it be shown by a bill of exceptions purporting to contain all the evidence. 84 Ind., 287.

To constitute the longhand manuscript of evidence taken by a stenographer part of the record on appeal, it must be incorporated into the bill of exceptions. 107 Ind., 178; 110 Ind., 242. 2 Ind. App., 354.

A paper in the record purporting to be the stenographer's re-

port of evidence, not signed or attested by the judge, is without force. 120 Ind., 140; 111 Ind., 384.

When the stenographer's report is made a part of the bill of exceptions and there is a conflict between it and the facts alleged in the formal part of the bill the report will control. 68 Maine, 487.

The stenographer's report when expressly made a part of the bill of exceptions must control the allegations of fact if there be a conflict. 84 Me., 84.

In *Smith v. Ray*, (Georgia,) because the record contained no brief of evidence but instead a full stenographic report, including much irrelevant matter, it was held such stenographic report could not take the place of a brief of evidence, although the presiding judge thought the evidence and the error complained of might be better understood by having the evidence in full.

The practice of taking the stenographer's notes for a bill of exceptions is disapproved in 58 N. Y., 86, and 60 N. Y., 78.

The bill of exceptions should contain only so much of the stenographer's report as may be necessary to present and illustrate the matters excepted to. 108 North Carolina, 399.

The appeal record was a question and answer transcript of the stenographer's notes, and no reason assigned for it. Such record could not be considered. 10 Montana, 57, citing 9 Montana, 254.

The Massachusetts statute of 1870 providing for the appointment of stenographers in Suffolk county is to afford assistance in making up bills of exceptions, and where 200 pages which "consisted in large part of irrelevant details of testimony, long cross-examinations, and interlocutory discussions," were presented, it was held that the report was so irregular that it must be dismissed. 115 Mass., 310.

Preparation of a bill of exceptions by taking a heading and conclusion to the usually voluminous notes of a stenographer is oppressive in its expense to the parties, and imposes unnecessary labor on the court. 50 Mich., 448.

The entire evidence as stenographically taken was sent up as a bill of exceptions, with no index to the records or to the parts thereof to which the assignments of error applied. It was held that the court in such case will not examine the record critically for error. 88 Mich., 475.



The practice of incorporating the entire notes of a trial in appeal cases is severely censured in 38 Mich., 46; also in 38 Mich., 484, where the court says it may become necessary to apply some sort of penalty in order to repress such prejudicial irregularities. The custom is also criticised in 32 Mich., 259; 58 Iowa, 553.

57 Texas, 70, criticises the adoption of the stenographer's report as the statement of facts as "an abuse which the court will discourage by such means as may be proper and effectual to that end." The Supreme Court rules now require a condensed statement of facts proved. The Supreme Court in 58 Iowa, 553, finds the practice so prevalent that it feels called upon to interfere for its own protection.

Shorthand characters cannot be copyrighted. 49 Fed. Rep., Cir. Ct.; of N. D. of N. Y.

The presence of a stenographer who is a duly appointed assistant of the district attorney, to take notes of the testimony of any witness before the grand jury, where he is not present at any deliberation of the grand jury, is not ground for quashing the indictment. 46 Fed. Rep., 65.

Under section 313 of the old code an oral agreement between parties to a reference entered by the stenographer upon his minutes allowing the referee to fix his own compensation was not an agreement in writing for any other rate than that prescribed. 77 N. Y., 476.

In Nevada the term "folio" means 100 words, counting every figure necessarily used as a word, and when there shall be an excess over the last folio exceeding a quarter of a folio, it shall be computed as a folio.

While it is the custom among stenographers to estimate the folios furnished it has been held such practice will not avail as against an actual count reducing the number charged for. 73 Mich., 589. 58 How. Pr., (N. Y.,) 184.

Where depositions before a register in bankruptcy have been taken stenographically and transcribed such depositions will be suppressed if not read to and signed by the witness, although his subsequent attendance for that purpose could not be procured. 9 Federal Reporter, 754.

Under section 869 of the Penal Code the transcript required to

be filed in ten days is merely directory, and a filing within a reasonable time is sufficient. 75 Cal., 301.

A Missouri judge in 25 S. W. Rep., 851, scores the system of stenography in the courts as onerous and expensive, and says that it is no exaggeration to say that the system has increased the cost of appeals almost fourfold, with little or no corresponding benefit.

Stenographic notes are preserved for the benefit of the parties to the proceeding in which they were taken, and the information in them is, aside from the prosecuting attorney, confined to the parties directly interested, and are not public records within the meaning of the Code. 60 S. W. Rep., (Nebraska,) 585.

In 26 Atlantic Rep., (Penn.) 485, the court referred to stenographer's notes being certified to by a firm in the firm name, and the court does not see how the partnership can be an officer of the court.

Transcripts and testimony must be numbered at the bottom of the page near the left-hand corner, and the name of the witness on the left-hand margin near the bottom, and the testimony must be indexed. 37 Pac. Rep., (Oregon.)

"Every transcript shall be plainly written or printed on paper of good quality, of the size of legal cap, and be free from interlineations and erasures, and be duly paged and prefixed with an alphabetical index to its contents, specifying the page of each separate paper, order, or proceeding, and of the testimony of each witness, and have at least one blank fly-leaf; provided, the statement of facts and bill of exceptions must in every case be printed or typewritten, and when typewritten none other than the ribbon copy shall be used." 40 Pacific Rep., No. 14.

Shorthand schools are not exempt from taxation in Louisiana. *Lichentag v. Tax Collector*, April, 1894.

Wages of one employed as a stenographer or private secretary are, under the Georgia Code, exempt from execution. 12 Am. Reps., 274.

The court may require the stenographer in civil cases to transcribe his notes for the judge's use, but has no power to require any party to produce the stenographer's report in verifying a brief of evidence. 18 Southern Rep., (Georgia,) 986.

In case of an appeal in a divorce suit the settlement of facts preparatory to taking the appeal may properly be made on the

stenographer's notes where the judge goes out of office before the time for such settlement expires. 49 Mich., 630.

When documentary evidence is offered each piece should be presented by itself to the judge and identified by the court or the stenographer with suitable marks. 78 Maine, 453.

Rule 41 does not entitle the party making the case as a matter of absolute right to the use of the stenographer's notes; any other statement showing what the evidence was may be used. 4 Hun, (New York,) 288.

On a reference action to foreclose a mortgage and the stenographer's fees have been taxed by plaintiff the court may order the plaintiff when the stenographer's notes are in his possession to file the same with the County Clerk, even though the property has been sold and the costs fully paid. 27 Hun, (New York,) 144.

It is the stenographer's duty to file his notes without charge, and he can be compelled to do so. 48 Mich., 640.

Where the jury disagree as to any part of the testimony it is not reversible error to permit the official stenographer to read a portion of the testimony in the presence of both attorneys. 35 Neb., 695.

Defendant had no ground of exception where he was present, but his counsel and plaintiff's counsel were absent, and the stenographer read defendant's evidence to a disagreeing jury. 14 R. I., 15.

As to the effect of taking evidence in the absence of the judge, held, that there had been no mistrial, as the judge gathered the facts from the concession of counsel upon the argument, and found the facts undisputed and decided the questions of law upon that theory, the evidence taken before the court stenographer being potentially before the court although not written out. 24 N. Y. Supp., 548.

The proper practice in Penn. in making up the record under the act of 1877 is for the parties to except to the charge of the judge generally before verdict, and the party excepting should at the same time request that the charge and answers to points be written out and filed by the stenographer.

The death of the stenographer, and consequent inability of a party to obtain a copy of the testimony, are not grounds for granting a new trial. 56 N. Y. Sup'r. Ct., 350.

21 N. Y. Sup., 568, illustrates how an official stenographer may

exceed his authority, and the court says, "Here we have the case of a stenographer presiding at a trial in one of our circuits, swearing to the correctness of his minutes, and subsequently swearing that not only his previous affidavit was false, but that his minutes are entitled to no greater credit than his oath. It is very evident that this stenographer knew nothing of the business pertaining to his position. A more flagrant breach of the duty of a stenographer upon a trial has never been called to the court's notice."

The failure to require the stenographer to file his notes is not an error for which an order granting a new trial will be reversed if he is incompetent, and could not take down the testimony as it was given nor read such notes as he did take. 49 Cal., 268.

In 82 Louisiana, 646, it is held that the notes of a stenographer although illegible or unintelligible to anyone else constitute a "taking in writing under the eye and within the hearing of the court by a sworn officer, and although they had never been transcribed or translated, owing to some accident the insufficiency of the record under such circumstances was no ground for dismissing the bill."

When the minutes of a stenographer employed and paid by plaintiff are by common consent used by the referee, and are the only ones taken on the trial such minutes cannot be taken by plaintiff's attorney as his and the referee and court thereby deprived of the use of the only existing official record. 16 Weekly Digest, 43.

Appellant's counsel complain in their brief of the action of the court in "tying the shorthand minutes to the record" after refusing to make them a part of the bill of exceptions. The notes, by being tied to the record, do not become a part of it, but remain perfectly useless to the case and harmless to the appellant. 63 Ind., 327.

On a reference the stenographer was permitted to take the testimony upon the typewriter and thus prolong the hearing and increase the *per diem* of both the referee and himself largely in excess of what it otherwise would have been. The court denounced it as a practice that finds no sanction or authority in the law and as in open and flagrant violation of the rights of litigants whose disbursements are necessarily enough without being increased by constructive and unauthorized fees. 88 Pac. Rep., (Oregon) 565.

Where it was sought by a respondent to put in evidence the transcript of an examination in an inferior court it developed that two stenographers officiated, one of whom testified that the part he took was "correct, literally as uttered by the witness;" that he transcribed the notes of his co-stenographer and that he knew the copy to be "an absolutely correct copy." It was shown, however, that no comparison had been made of upwards of 100 pages. Judge Cooley indites some very sensible remarks upon such an improper procedure, and holds the offer to have been inadmissible. 49 Mich., 384.

A very interesting decision arising in South Dakota appears in 60 N. W. Rep., 147, as to whether the public interests are better served if a judge when going out of his own circuit is accompanied by his regular stenographer, and the court states that a judge must rely largely upon the correctness of the stenographer's notes; that judges like others have individual peculiarities of thought, expression and habits of business, and the better the stenographer is acquainted with these the more accurate will be his work; that in justice to all the words of the judge must be caught and written with extreme fidelity. Other reasons are also given which must commend themselves to anyone.

Unofficial stenographic notes of a witness's testimony before a coroner are not evidence for the defendant on a subsequent trial for murder though the witness were dead. 29 Pittsburgh Law Journal, 225.

In some circuits in Georgia the official stenographer is allowed, in order to aid the solicitor-general, to propound questions to jurors on their *voire dire*, the acceptance or rejection resting with the solicitor-general. In 79 Ga., 773, it was held where a stenographer inadvertently put the juror upon the defendant after questioning him, and the defendant accepted him without waiting for the solicitor-general's direction, that the stenographer had no authority to accept, and his mere inadvertence did not deprive the solicitor-general of his right to challenge.

Where upon a trial counsel insisted that every word uttered by the judge during the trial should be taken down by the stenographer and the court refused to so direct the reporter to do, it was held to be much broader than the statute intended, and that the

request was properly overruled. 58 Wis., citing 51 Wis., 263, 21 Wis., 47, 29 Wis., 125, 50 Wis., 218, 35 Wis., 164.

A deposition taken in question and answer by a stenographer and not reduced to writing in the witness's presence nor read over to or by him is not a deposition properly taken under sections 863-4 of the Rev. Stat. of the U. S. 57 Fed. Rep., 491.

Shorthand notes are admissible in evidence under the same circumstances as depositions; the Supreme Court cannot review a question of fact in an action at law on said notes. 25 Pac. Rep., (Oregon) 26.

A certified copy of a stenographer's transcript is admissible whenever the original would be. 19 Neb., 342.

A stenographer's report of oral testimony is not a "written instrument" within the meaning of the Indiana Revised Statutes, section 626. 108 Ind., 210, 387. 104 Ind., 447; 122 Ind., 379; 120 Ind., 140; 78 Iowa, 227.

The Newark Common Council may authorize a committee to take testimony in contested elections of members, and may employ a stenographer; if the committee employs the stenographer before the resolution conferring the authority becomes effective, the council may subsequently ratify the action. 50 N. J. L., 97.

No prejudicial error shown because no reporter was present and the judge refused delay till one could be procured, as no hardship was shown. 61 N. W. Rep., (Neb.) 84.

Stenographers are officers of the district court, and subject to its orders, and in cases appealable to the Supreme Court must make a duplicate copy, and where but one copy was filed it furnished no excuse to the clerk for not complying with the Statute of 1894, Act. 8. 17 Southern Rep., 48.

Judge Maynard, in the Common Pleas Court of Ohio, held that a transcript of a former trial by an unofficial stenographer was competent. This ruling has not yet been passed upon by the appellate court.

Stenographers of Surrogates' Court acting as referee not within the scope of section 90 or section 2511 in view of section 3355 of the Code. N. Y. Register, April, 1885.

No rule requiring a judge to require appellant's attorney to furnish plaintiff's attorney with the stenographer's minutes. N. Y. Law Bulletin, 1882, page 45.

A case was held settled in accordance with the stenographer's minutes, though an attorney swore he took an exception which did not appear in the minutes. The attorney had a cold, and was partially deaf, and spoke in a low tone, but supposed the stenographer heard him; the court say this suggested a cause which might have led to it having escaped the notice of both the court and the stenographer. 48 N. Y., Sup'r, 569.

It is to the great credit of our profession that no case of falsification of the record has been detected, if such perfidy has ever occurred, but disbarment of attorneys is not infrequent. The most recent case occurred in Missouri, where two attorneys conspired to secure a reversal of judgment in a capital case by removing from the stenographer's transcript certain portions and inserting false statements of the testimony, for the purpose of deceiving the trial judge.

When Mr. Cook had finished reading, he said: I move a vote of thanks to Mr. Rodgers for the preparation of his elaborate and very valuable paper upon "What the Courts Say," which must have involved a great deal of labor, and it seems proper that recognition should be made of the pains taken by the compiler.

Seconded by Mr. McLoughlin, and carried by a unanimous vote.

**CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY:** We have with us this morning Mr. Nelson R. Butcher, of Toronto, one of our honorary members. He was not here yesterday, and, therefore, has not been afforded an opportunity to give us a few words relating to stenographic matters across the border. Consequently we shall be pleased to hear from him, if agreeable to him, before we adjourn.

**MR. BUTCHER:** I am obliged to you, Mr. Chairman, for your courteous invitation to address the convention, but, it is so near the hour of adjournment (I came for pleasure and not for business) that I will not inflict upon you any remarks.

With your permission I will make one suggestion. I understand from what has been said this morning, that you are making some move in the direction of chartering reporters. We have, in Ontario, an act chartering the "Stenographic Reporters Association of Ontario." It is by the Ontario act of 1891, 54 Vic., Chap. 80. Its aim is to increase the standard and efficiency of reporters. In the passage of such an act you will find that the members of a


legislature hold various views regarding reporters, and some of the members hold very peculiar views as to remuneration. This arises from the fact that some people imagine that when a person writes shorthand he is a reporter, the only difference being that perhaps one can write a little faster than another. They cannot understand why a graduate of a shorthand college cannot report properly a meeting of medical experts so long as he can hear what is said. Of course the learned members of the legislature understand the requirements and responsibilities of our profession, and are always willing to treat us fairly; but, in your endeavor to secure the passage of an act, you will find it necessary to appoint a good committee who will see that your interests are protected. In protecting your interests the legislature will be protecting the interests of the public, if they, by an act, ensure the recording of testimony by competent men.

MR. MASON: I move a recess until 2:30 o'clock.

Carried.

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#### FOURTH SESSION.

T was 3 o'clock when the convention settled down to business, and promptly passed Mr. George R. Bishop's West Point (1894) amendment to the constitution, as follows:

"The executive committee of the association, together with one member of the examining committee, (such member of the examining committee to be from the district of which the candidate for membership shall be a resident), shall be empowered, *ad interim*, to consider the application of and admit new members to the association, with the same force and effect as though they had been elected by the association in annual meeting, the member so elected to pay annual dues for the year then current."

The secretary read the following report:

*To the New York State Stenographers' Association:*

At the annual meeting of 1894, the following resolution was adopted:

"That a committee to consist of Col. Dickinson, Mr. Carey and Mr. Heffley be appointed to investigate the matters understood to



have occurred in Brooklyn, referred to in Col. Dickinson's paper; that said committee, if on investigation it shall ascertain that the facts warrant such action, to report to the Executive Committee; the Executive Committee and said committee of three to have power, jointly, to enter a protest with the proper authorities, if the same shall be ascertainable, alone or to call on the officers of the association to act jointly with them in the name of the association and bring such matters before such proper authorities."

This resolution does not seem to contemplate any report to the association itself as a committee of the whole; but your committee would state that they did not deem it expedient to make any report to the Executive Committee for the reason that while it is true that such appointments have undoubtedly been made in several instances, your committee are of the opinion that no action can be advantageously taken by the association thereon, for the reason that such appointments were made too long ago to render such action advisable; that the statute of limitations, so to speak, has operated as a bar to the consideration of such cases.

Your committee is of the opinion, however, that it would be well for the individual members of the association to be vigilant in the scrutiny of such appointments hereafter made in their respective localities throughout the state; and that the Executive Committee of the association should be at once notified of any stenographic appointments to courts, which appear to be for any reason improper, either from the personal character of the appointee, or from lack of the necessary requirements of a court reporter, to the end that that committee may at once institute inquiries and take such prompt action in the premises as they may deem wise, for the purpose, first, of preventing such appointments, and, second, that it may be publicly known that there is an organized body of reputable stenographers who are watching such appointments and who propose to enter a vigorous protest against them, if improper selections are made for such positions.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDW. B. DICKINSON.  
JOHN B. CAREY,  
N. P. HEFFLEY.

Accepted.

The committee on place of meeting presented the following report:

*To the New York State Stenographers' Association :*

We considered quite carefully the next place of meeting. There has been quite a good deal of discussion among different members, many seeming to think that if we should hold our next meeting at a more central point we would secure a larger attendance. Syracuse has seemed to us the most convenient point and easily accessible to members from all parts of the state; and, therefore, we recommend Syracuse as the next place of meeting.

The members of the committee desire to make one further suggestion, and that is in regard to changing the time of our annual convention from August to sometime in the winter. We understand that some of the older members are in favor of this change, as a meeting the last of August comes right in vacation time and this situation of affairs, of course, would not exist in midwinter. We have thought it would be a good idea if the secretary would write to each member of the association and get the opinion of each individual member as to what time of year he or she could best attend, and then base our calculations upon such conclusion, and if such a change were deemed desirable some action could be taken upon it at the next meeting. We simply add this as a suggestion.

CLARA A. WHITE,  
ETTA A. EMENS,  
SIDNEY C. ORMSBY.

Accepted.

The committee on nominations of officers reported as follows:

For President, George H. Thornton, Buffalo.

For Vice-President, Mrs. Clara A. White, Elmira.

For Secretary-Treasurer, Kendrick C. Hill, New York.

For Librarian, Miss M. Jeanette Ballantyne, Rochester.

For Executive Committee, Edward B. Dickinson, New York;  
George R. Bishop, New York; Spencer C. Rodgers, Albany;  
Theodore C. Rose, Elmira; Miss Cora M. Emens, Rochester.

Upon motion the report was adopted, the secretary cast the ballot and the above named persons were declared duly elected.

CHAIRMAN HEFFLEY: It has been said, "Expedition is the life and soul of business." In conducting these proceedings, we have endeavored to observe this maxim, and as many matters of importance were to be brought up for consideration, it seemed essential to confine ourselves strictly to the matters in hand. Some

times it may have appeared that we have rushed the business almost too rapidly. The order of business has been observed with delightful inconsistency, and questions and papers have been selected from time to time, in a way which we thought would best serve the purpose of expediting our deliberations. Notwithstanding this, all important matters I believe have had due consideration.

I wish to thank the members of the association for their courtesy and indulgence while I have presided, and I sincerely trust that all have had as pleasant and enjoyable a time as I have had during the past two days.

As the newly-elected president is absent, and as the vice-president (as was the case when we convened yesterday morning) is present, she will have to assume the duties of the president. I will appoint a committee consisting of Miss Ballantyne and Mr. Bird, to escort the Vice-President to the chair.

Chairman Hefley being requested by the new Vice-President to continue to preside, said: In glancing over the proceedings of last year, just a moment ago, I noticed that the incoming officers were elected at the morning session of the second day. I was of the impression that they were not elected until in the afternoon, or at least not until toward the close of the meeting; so that, you see (addressing the vice-president elect), under the circumstances, if that is the rule, or the custom, I have already presided for you at the forenoon session and part of the afternoon. I refrain therefore from further trespassing upon your prerogatives, and must decline to accede to your request. Besides, the experience which you will gain to-day will be of value to you at the next annual in case our president elect should be conspicuous by his absence at that time. The escort committee will now perform its pleasant duty.

Mrs. White assumed the chair, when the following paper was read:

## MODERN SHORTHAND.

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FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTEENTH TO THE MIDDLE OF  
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

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BY NORMAN P. HEFFLEY.

Since the publication in the proceedings of this association of the paper which I presented on "Ancient and Mediæval Shorthand," it has been my intention to submit additional papers for the purpose of giving a connected history of our art from the earliest time to the present. I would have submitted the following several years ago, but have refrained from doing so owing to the little interest generally manifested in such history. However, in the hope that additional information may tend to create increased interest in the matter, I beg your indulgence for presenting this brief running commentary upon the history of Modern Shorthand. This paper takes up the subject from where it was left in the previous one, namely: at the close of the sixteenth century, and brings it down to the invention of phonography by Isaac Pitman in 1887.

When shorthand was first used in England is hard to determine. The first professional work has been ascribed to John Jewell, Bishop of Salisbury, in the middle of the 16th century. There is no doubt but that he wrote some species of shorthand, as described in a Latin work published in 1573, two years after Jewell's death, by Lawrence Humphrey, who says: "He was always a tachygraphist and polygraphist, so that he could express many things quickly and neatly; he took down discourses almost to the word." Jewell also reported the lectures of Peter Martyr, in 1549, in England, and also at Strasburg, and was one of the official writers at the great disputations on the Sacraments of the Altar, in Oxford, in 1554.

This brings us down to about the close of the 16th century, or the Golden Age of English literature, which age was, in many respects the most remarkable in the world's history. In it is enshrined that galaxy of immortal names of scholars, statesmen, historians, poets,—including such men as Spencer, Sidney, Scott,

Byron, Bacon, Raleigh,—as well as the incomparable Shakespeare. It is not remarkable, therefore, that an art of such intrinsic excellence as shorthand should have its origin, or rather second birth, at such a time, to cap the climax, as it were, and enfold the true type of lofty aspiration and manifold activity of Elizabethan England.

Beginning at about the year 1600, it would require volumes to do justice to the subsequent history and development of shorthand, so that we shall only be able to make a few superficial references to them. It was at this time, when Gruter and Lipsius were engaged in their work in connection with the Tironian Notes, as explained in our former paper, that an Englishman, Dr. Timothy Bright, prepared and published, in 1588, a system of shorthand, entitled, "Characterie; an art of short, swift, and secret writing by character." Before its publication, we have no authenticated facts proving the existence of any system of shorthand aside from the unintelligible Tironian Notes, and the efforts of John of Tilbury. After its appearance, however, works on shorthand became, "Thick as autumnal leaves that strew the brooks in Valombrosia." From that time to the present, (300 years,) nearly 3,000 editions of works on shorthand have been published; many of them valueless, many of them curious, and many of them meritorious.

There is but one copy of Bright's work known to be in existence to-day, and that is in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, where I had the pleasure of seeing it a few years ago,—a pleasure which none but a shorthand bibliomaniac could experience.

It was undoubtedly from the Tironian Notes that Bright obtained his inspiration to invent characters to represent words, though it must be admitted that in the application of arbitrary signs, he quite surpassed his prototype. "Neither his ingenuity, however, nor that of Peter Bales, the author of a pretended improvement, under the title of 'Brachygraphy,' could obviate the absolute necessity of having a stenographic alphabet, with which to spell words, instead of having an arbitrary character for each word."

Bright's book is divided into two parts. The first part treats of the production and variety of characters, from the most simple and plain, to such as are doubly compounded. The other treats of the value of characters with regard to their application and use.

The treatise contains a table of about 500 words, with the characters to designate them. Concerning these, the author says, "These words thou art to get by heart and therewith the making of the figure of the character, so as to do it readily and clean; then to be able to join every character to the word pronounced, without book, or set of any pattern before thee. This done, thou art farther to proceed and to learn how to refer either words of like signification, or of the same kind, or contraries, unto those that be called characterie."

Notwithstanding the author displayed considerable ingenuity in the production of his scheme, yet "on account of its obscurity and perplexity, it presented impediments so numerous and discouraging, that nothing but a determined resolution and intense application could master it." To acquire a knowledge of the art sufficiently well to make it practical for difficult reporting purposes was almost out of the question.

The method adopted by Bales was to divide the words into dozens, each dozen headed by a Roman letter, which letter, with certain commas, periods, and other marks placed about it, was to distinguish the words from each other. This method was, of course, extremely burdensome to the memory, and the ability to report a speaker was unquestionably never attained by any one. In 1590 he published an improvement of the system entitled "A New Year's Gift for England."

The next author was John Willis, who published, in 1602, a work entitled "The Art of Stenography, or Short Writing by Spelling Characterie," which he styled, "A new-sprung imp." With this work it may be said that modern shorthand became an accomplished fact, and, although subsequent systems for nearly two hundred years were but a little improvement upon Willis, the reporting of sermons, trials, plays, parliamentary proceedings, etc., became of frequent occurrence. Shakespeare's plays were surreptitiously obtained by reporters and published, which accounts for the various discrepancies existing in the early editions of his works.

We might quote a few expressions of the most noted Shakespearean commentators on this point: Mr. Dyce says: "The quarto edition of 1608 exhibits a text mangled and corrupted throughout, and perhaps formed on the notes of some shorthand writer who had imperfectly taken it down during representation." John

Payne Collier says of this edition: "That where the mechanical skill of the shorthand writer failed, he filled in the blanks badly from memory."

We might also mention a few instances of difference met with in *Hamlet*. "I have heard of your *prattlings*, too, well enough,—God hath given you one *pace*." While another rendition is: "I have heard of your *paintings*, too, well enough—God hath given you one *face*." In *Romeo and Juliet*, where Juliet snatches Romeo's dagger, and as she stabs herself, says: "This is thy sheathe; there *rest*, and let me die"; the shorthand reporter making it; "This is thy sheathe; there *rust*, and let me die. Or, again: "It is not alone my inky cloak, *good mother*"; "It is not alone my inky cloak *could smother*."

Many other instances might be quoted, but these are sufficient. In Shakespeare's time there was a desire to prevent people becoming acquainted with plays that were produced, except by representation on the stage, and as these plays created quite an impression at the time, it can be readily seen why shorthand writers were employed to secure them for publication. It is now conceded that the plays of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V.*, and *Hamlet*, were secured and published in this way.

Not only were Shakespeare's plays obtained by reporters, but others as well. Thomas Heywood, who was a dramatist of considerable note, and a contemporary of Shakespeare, wrote a prologue, in which he says, they, the shorthand writers,

"Did throng the seats, the boxes, and the stage,  
So much, that some by stenography drew  
The plot; put it in print; scarce one word true."

In Act 4, Scene 3, of the play called "The Devil's Law Case," by John Webster, occur these lines, which show the early use of shorthand:

"Do you hear, officers?  
You must take great care that you let in  
No brakigraphy-men to take notes."

"Brakigraphy" was a name given to stenography, consequently the allusion to "brakigraphy-men," or stenographers.

Baumont and Fletcher, also noted dramatists of this age, likewise suffered from these piratical publications. The shorthand reporter in "The Pilgrim," act 4, scene 3, made it read:

"I disen'd him  
And pinned a *plum* in his forehead."

*Plum* puzzled many people. "It must be the name of a cap," said one. "The author intended to write nonsense," says another. "No," says Collier, "the shorthand writer, finding the letters *p l m* in his notes, hastily concluded that it meant *plum*, instead of *plume*—pinned a plume in his forehead."

One more reference from these authors and I will not bother you with further examples of the incompetent shorthand writer of nearly three centuries ago. It is from one of the plays by the same authors:

"You are an ass.  
You must have all things construed,  
And pierced, too."

When the sensible shorthand writer would have transcribed it, "You must have all things construed, and *parsed*, too."

As we have said, Willis' system was published in 1602, and as some of these plays of Shakespeare and others were printed in the following year, you can see how rapidly a knowledge of the art spread, unless, indeed, they were reported in some other system of which we have no knowledge, for it is hard to believe that they could have been so accurately reported if Bright's or Bale's systems had been used.

Willis' system was based upon the orthographical principle—that is, having a character to represent each of the letters of the alphabet, and by joining them together be able to spell words. This you will readily understand was a vast step in advance over having an absolute character for each word. It, however, lacked one of the essential elements of a practical system, namely, the representation of the various vowel sounds of the language. On account of this deficiency in his, and subsequent systems, it became necessary to introduce symbolic or arbitrary characters to represent words and phrases. The first inventor of these symbols was reduced to the necessity of employing them by reason of the awkward and lengthy manner in which many important words were necessarily expressed when written according to the system.

Notwithstanding the difficulty which attended the learning of these systems the authors were not of that opinion. We will refer to a few of their roseate views, to show their extravagant claims, egotistical and self-laudatory commendation.

Bright, in his preface, says: "Thou hast here, gentle reader,



the art of *short*, and so of *speedy* writing, to which none is comparable, plainly delivered unto thee, so as by thine own industry, thou mayest attain it if thou wilt but one month take pains therein, and by the continuance of another month mayst thou attain to great readiness." It is needless to say that the system could not be easily learned, notwithstanding he says it could be done in two months.

The title of one of John Willis' works reads: "A school master to the art of stenography, adapted to the understanding of the meanest capacity." The title of a work by Edmund Willis is: "An abbreviation of writing by character, with plain and easy rules for the speedy performance thereof, without any other tutor." In the preface of one of his editions, he congratulates himself on the success of his labors, as follows: "I have now, by further enlargement of this book, brought it forth stronger limbed and more able to do the world service, for the advancement of those public ends whereunto my desires have wholly leveled, God's glory, and the benefit of many thousand souls in the posterities yet to come, when myself shall return to Him that made me and be gathered to the sepulchres of my fathers." After speaking of the propensity of the age to slander and envy, he says: "But I thank God that I have that testimony within myself which shall be as a good tide to take me off from such shelves. My testimony is mine own conscience, that my intentions are not hereby to sound a trumpet before myself, but only to do somewhat for public good, which may further mine accounts at the last day, that I have not altogether run in vain, neither labored to no purpose."

According to the usual practice of those times, there is affixed to Willis' publication a poetical tribute to the author's excellence. A portion of it as follows:

"Thou hast by art upon such judgment grounded,  
And so exact a method has propounded  
By characters, to write with such speed  
As may be thought by all a worthy deed,  
In which rare art may be well understood,  
How Willis' *will*—*is* to do all men good."

All his statements seem rather paradoxical, when we take into consideration the fact that his system was not much more than a copy of that of his namesake, John Willis.

The next author of note was Thomas Shelton. In 1641 he pub-

lished several works under various titles, such as "Tachygraphy, the most exact and compendious method of short and swift writing that hath ever yet been published by any." "The tutor to Tachygraphy, explained to the weakest capacities that desire to learn the art." "Zeiglographia, or, a new art of short writing, never before published; more easy, exact, short and speedy, than any heretofore." Theophilus Metcalfe, in 1645, published "Radio-Stenography, or short writing, the most easy, exact, lineal, and speedy method that hath ever been obtained, or taught." Under his portrait in the book, are the following lines:

"Cæsar was praised for his dexterity,  
In festes of war and martial Chevalry :  
And no less famous art thou for thy skill  
In nimble turning of thy silver quill ;  
Which with the Preacher's mouth holds equal pace,  
And swiftly glides along until the race  
Of his discourse be run, so that I think  
His words breath'd from his mouth are turn'd to ink,"

In 1649, Jeremiah Rich appeared upon the scene, with several works, entitled: "Semigraphy, or Art's Rarity; allowed by the learned to be the easiest, exactest, and briefest method of short and swift writing, that ever was known." Another of his titles was "The Pen's Dexterity," which, the author says, "Was practiced by honorable persons, reverend divines, eminent lawyers, and gentlemen." Under his portrait we find this verse:

"Here Active, and Mysterious Art you see,  
Contracted in a small Epitome;  
Soon Gained with practice ; thus ye meanest Wit  
Makes a Diversion of a Benefit.  
Thus either Sex, or Age may, old or young  
With Nimbler Pen, out-post the Nimble tongue.  
Thus to thy Lasting Fame it shall be said;  
Rich lives in Characters, when RICH be dead."

The Book of Psalms and New Testament were engraved and published in this system in 1659. These works are the smallest books that have ever been printed, considering the contents.

In 1658, Job Everardt published "An Epitome of Stenography." Noah Bridges called his work: "Stenography and Cryptography;" while William Facy designated his: "The Complement of Stenography."

William Mason, in 1672, published a work entitled: "A Pen

Plucked from an Eagle's Wing." Also, "Art's Advancement," and several other works. His portrait adorned this work also and underneath the following lines were placed:

"Let SHELTON, RICH, and all the rest go down,  
Bring here your Golden Pen and Laurel Crown.  
Great MASON'S nimbler Quill out-strips ye Winde,  
And leaves ye Voyce, almost ye Thoughts behind.  
In vain may MOMUS snarl; He soars on high;  
Praise he commands, and ENVY does defie."

Other curious titles, by succeeding authors, are as follows: "The Flying Penman," "Shorthand Writing Begun by Nature, Completed by Art," "Shorthand, yet Shorter," "Maximum in Minimum, or the Pen's Dexterity Completed," "Shorthand Unmasked," "My Stenographical Sermon Catcher;" and so we might go on to the end of the chapter.

Each of these authors claimed that his particular system was the shortest and most easily acquired of any of the systems extant. Some said their systems could be learned in a few hours, a few weeks, or, at most, in a few months. From what we now know of the perplexity and shortcomings of their systems, and the difficulty of learning them sufficiently well for practical purposes, we can honestly doubt these assertions. In fact, we can definitely prove the contrary to be the case. Regarding the Tironian Notes, a writer of several centuries ago, as referred to in our former paper, said that if you desired to subject a person to all forms of punishment, you would only have to make him learn stenography. We also find a statement somewhat forcibly illustrated by a gentleman who has left his mark, but not his name in a book, which was published in 1674, and which I have here among others on exhibition. The date of his birth and death I cannot give you, but we have the evidence in black and white, showing that at one time of his existence he was a much discouraged and disgusted man. He, too, was somewhat irreverent in expressing his feelings, and as it was more expressive than elegant, we shall not quote it, but you may read it here in the book itself, should you desire.

Coming down to more recent times, we find that the difficulty was not materially decreased, to substantiate which we have only to quote the words of a man whose name is familiar to every school-boy, namely, Charles Dickens. Mr. Dickens was a shorthand reporter for many years, and in his tale of "David Copper-

field," he gives an account of the trials and tribulations he encountered in his efforts to master stenography. He says:

"I did not allow my resolution, with respect to parliamentary debates, to cool. It was one of the irons I began to heat immediately, and one of the irons I kept hot, and hammered at, with a perseverance I may honestly admire. I bought an approved scheme of the noble art and mystery of stenography (which cost me ten and sixpence); and plunged into a sea of perplexity that brought me, in a few weeks, to the confines of distraction. The changes that were rung upon dots, which in such a position meant such a thing, and in such another position something else, entirely different; the wonderful vagaries that were played by circles; the unaccountable consequences that resulted from marks like flies' legs; the tremendous effects of a curve in a wrong place; not only troubled my waking hours, but reappeared before me in my sleep. When I had groped my way, blindly, through these difficulties, and had mastered the alphabet, which was an Egyptian temple in itself, there then appeared a procession of new horrors, called arbitrary characters; the most despotic characters I have ever known; who insisted, for instance, that a thing like the beginning of a cobweb, meant *expectation*, and that a pen and ink skyrocket stood for *disadvantageous*. When I had fixed these wretches in my mind, I found that they had driven everything else out of it; then beginning again, I forgot them; while I was picking up, I dropped the other fragments of the system; in short, it was almost heart-breaking.

It might have been quite heart-breaking, but for Dora, who was the stay and anchor of my tempest-driven bark. Every scratch in the scheme was a gnarled oak in the forest of difficulty, and I went on cutting them down, one after another, with such vigor, that in three or four months I was in a condition to make an experiment on one of our crack speakers in the Commons. Shall I ever forget how the crack speaker walked off from me before I began, and left my imbecile pencil staggering about the paper as if it were in a fit!

"This would not do, it was quite clear. I was flying too high and should never get on. So I resorted to Traddles for advice; who suggested that he should dictate speeches to me, at a pace, and with occasional stoppages, adapted to my weakness. Very

grateful for this friendly aid, I accepted the proposal; and night after night, almost every night, for a long time, we had a sort of private Parliament in Buckingham street, after I came home from the doctor's.

"I should like to see such a Parliament anywhere else! My aunt and Mr. Dick represented the Government, or the Opposition (as the case might be), and Traddles, with the assistance of Enfield's Speaker or a volume of parliamentary orations, thundered astonishing invectives against them.

"Often and often we pursued these debates until the clock pointed to midnight, and the candles were burning down. The result of so much good practice was, that by-and-by I began to keep pace with Traddles pretty well, and should have been quite triumphant, if I had had the least idea what my notes were about. But, as to reading them after I had got them, I might as well have copied the Chinese inscriptions on an immense collection of tea-chests, or the golden characters on all the great red and green bottles in the chemists' shops!

"There was nothing for it, but to turn back and begin all over again. It was very hard, but I turned back, though with a heavy heart, and began laboriously and methodically to plod over the same tedious ground at a snail's pace, stopping to examine minutely every speck in the way, on all sides, and making the most desperate effort to know these elusive characters by sight wherever I met them."

Whether the learners of shorthand to-day, experience as much difficulty as did Mr. Dickens, we are not prepared to say, but we have been told that it is very difficult, because there are so many persons of more than ordinary ability who have failed to master the simplified systems now in use.

Returning again to the publishers of text-books on shorthand, but leaving the authors of the 17th century, whose systems we have referred to, we find the next system worthy of note, was published in 1750, 150 years after Willis, by William Tiffin, which was as much an improvement over Willis' system as his was over that of Bright; because he devised a scheme for the representation of all the consonant and vowel-sounds of the language. There was, however, something still lacking to cause its universal adoption, and it was not until nearly 100 years after Tiffin that

Isaac Pitman published his first work, entitled: "Sound-hand," and remedied the defects of former systems by adopting the simplest possible signs for the representation of the various sounds capable of being uttered. He further displayed his inventive genius by his philosophical arrangement of these characters, together with the expression of the vowels without writing them, thereby gaining the desideratum of shorthand—namely, the ability of writing with the rapidity of speech, and at the same time having the writing as legible as print.

There was published in this country previous to the publication of Isaac Pitman's work, a system by Rev. Phineas Baily, entitled "A Pronouncing Stenography." The first edition of this work was published in 1818, and the second edition was published in 1838. Mr. Baily also had characters to represent all the consonant and vowel sounds. The characters for the vowels were formed from strokes so that they could be connected with the consonant strokes, while Pitman's vowels were represented by dots and could not therefore, be connected, but had to be inserted after the consonant outline was formed.

Time will prevent comparisons and explanations of this system, as well as the other systems which were published in this country previous to 1837, the earliest one of which was a publication in 1789. A second edition of this work was printed at Philadelphia in 1799. This was the Gurney system, first published in England in 1742, and published at intervals from that time until 1834, when the eighteenth edition made its appearance, being equivalent to a new edition every seven or eight years. In 1793, Thomas Lloyd published the Taylor system, and among the subscribers for this book appear the illustrious names of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. Following Lloyd, there were modifications of the Taylor system published by C. Mangan at Boston in 1810, M. T. C. Gould at Albany in 1823, H. L. Barnum at Baltimore in 1834, and Thomas Towndrow published a modification of the Lewis system in 1831, and a system of his own in 1834.

Having thus briefly shown how the systems of shorthand grew and multiplied, we will now refer, for a moment, to instances relating to its practical application for legal and parliamentary reporting. We have already noted how shorthand was used for reporting lectures, sermons, etc. in the 14th, 15th, and 16th cen-

turies, and also for the reporting of the plays of Shakespeare and other dramatists at the beginning of the 17th century.

One of the earliest legal reports to be found in print, is that of a famous Republican agitator in London, in 1649. It is described in the title page as having been "exactly penned and taken down in shorthand as it was possible to be done in such a crowd and noise."

From this time on shorthand was very generally used for legal purposes, for all state trials, trials for treason, for the Popish plot trials, etc.

The earliest official appointment of a shorthand writer to take notes of legal proceedings, was that of Thomas Gurney, in 1788, by the Corporation of the City of London. He also did general reporting, and the business established by him has been conducted by members of the Gurney family from that day to this—or, over a century and a half. They have records of daily engagements extending back to 1785, or a little more than a century. It is needless to say that this is the oldest firm of shorthand reporters in the world.

The greatest trial which Thomas Gurney ever reported, and which was perhaps the greatest trial in all history, was the trial for the impeachment of Warren Hastings, whose life and achievements read like a romance. As this was a trial of great importance and world-wide interest, we cannot refrain from quoting an extract from the exhaustive description of it by Macaulay, as given in his life of Warren Hastings:

"On the thirteenth of February, 1788, the sittings of the court commenced. There have been spectacles more dazzling to the eye, more gorgeous with jewelry and cloth of gold, more attractive to grown-up children, than that which was exhibited at Westminster; but, perhaps, there never was a spectacle so well calculated to strike a highly cultivated, a reflecting, an imaginative mind. All the various kinds of interest which belong to the near and to the distant, to the present and to the past, were collected on one spot and in one hour. All the talents and all the accomplishments which are developed by liberty and civilization were now displayed, with every advantage that could be derived both from co-operation and from contrast. Every step in the proceedings carried the mind either backward, through many troubled

centuries, to the days when the foundations of our constitution were laid; or far away, over boundless seas and deserts, to dusky nations living under strange stars, worshipping strange gods, and writing characters from right to left. \* \* \* \*

"Neither military nor civil pomp was wanting. The avenues were lined with grenadiers. The streets were kept clear by cavalry. The peers, robed in gold and ermine, were marshalled by the heralds under Garter King-at-Arms. The judges, in their vestments of state, attended to give advice on points of law. Near a hundred and seventy Lords, three-fourths of the Upper House as the Upper House then was, walked in solemn order from their usual place of assembling to the tribunal. The gray walls were hung with scarlet. The long galleries were crowded by an audience such as has rarely excited the fears or the emulation of an orator. There were gathered together, from all parts of a great, free, enlightened and prosperous empire, grace and female loveliness, wit and learning, the representatives of every science and of every art. There were seated round the Queen the fair-haired young daughters of the house of Brunswick. There the ambassadors of great kings and commonwealths gazed with admiration on a spectacle which no other country in the world could present. There Siddons, in the prime of her majestic beauty, looked with emotion on a scene surpassing all the imitations of the stage. There the historian of the Roman Empire thought of the days when Cicero pleaded the cause of Sicily against Verres, and when, before a senate which still retained some show of freedom, Tacitus thundered against the oppressor of Africa. There were seen, side by side, the greatest painter and the greatest scholar of the age. The spectacle had allured Reynolds from that easel which has preserved to us the thoughtful foreheads of so many writers and statesmen, and the sweet smiles of so many noble matrons. It had induced Parr to suspend his labors in that dark and profound mine from which he had extracted a vast treasure of erudition, a treasure too often buried in the earth, too often paraded with injudicious and inelegant ostentation, but still precious, massive and splendid. There appeared the voluptuous charms of her to whom the heir of the throne had in secret plighted his faith. There too, was she, the beautiful mother of a beautiful race, the Saint Cecilia, whose delicate features, lighted up by love and music, art has res-



cued from a common decay. There were members of that brilliant society which quoted, criticised, and exchanged repartees, under the rich peacock hangings of Mrs. Montague. And there the ladies whose lips, more persuasive than those of Fox himself, had carried the Westminster election against palace and treasury, shone round Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire.

"The Serjeants made proclamation. Hastings advanced to the bar and bent his knee. The culprit was indeed not unworthy of that great presence. He had ruled an extensive and populous country, had made laws and treaties, had sent forth armies, had set up and pulled down princes. And in his high place he had so borne himself that all had feared him, that most had loved him, and that hatred itself could deny him no title to glory, except virtue. He looked like a great man, and not like a bad man. \* \*

"The charges and answers of Hastings were first read. The ceremony occupied two whole days, and was rendered less tedious than it would otherwise have been by the silver voice and just emphasis of Cowper, the clerk of the court, a near relation of the amiable poet. On the third day Burke rose. With an exuberance of thought and a splendor of diction which more than satisfied the highly-raised expectation of the audience, he described the character and institutions of the natives of India, recounted the circumstances in which the Asiatic empire of Britain had originated, and set forth the constitution of the Company and of the English Presidencies. Having thus attempted to communicate to his hearers an idea of Eastern society as vivid as that which existed in his own mind, he proceeded to arraign the administration of Hastings as systematically conducted in defiance of morality and public law. The energy and pathos of the great orator extorted expressions of unwonted admiration from the stern and hostile Chancellor, and, for a moment, seemed to pierce even the resolute heart of the defendant. The ladies in the galleries, unaccustomed to such displays of eloquence, excited by the solemnity of the occasion, and perhaps not unwilling to display their taste and sensibility, were in a state of uncontrollable emotion. Handkerchiefs were pulled out; smelling-salts were handed round; hysterical sobs and screams were heard; and Mrs. Sheridan was carried out in a fit."

Such is a brief description of this famous trial, a trial which

continued eight years, and in which were engaged the most famous men of English history, such as Burke, who, Macaulay says, was, "in amplitude of comprehension and richness of imagination, superior to every orator, ancient or modern." There was also Fox, the great champion of the American colonists against those laws which precipitated the revolution; as well as Pitt, Sheridan, Windham, etc., all intellectual giants and men of rare ability, and it is doubtful if ever there were engaged in any single trial so many famous men. Thomas Gurney was the official reporter for the government, and William Blanchard (author of a system of shorthand) for the defendant. Had they not had shorthand reporters to expedite its proceedings, this trial might have lasted for a quarter of a century instead of eight years.

Thomas Gurney was also officially appointed by Parliament just previous to the revolution of the thirteen states, to report its proceedings, and its proceedings have been reported by the Gurney family until the present time.

Previous to Gurney, Sir Henry Cavendish, a member of parliament, took copious notes of its proceedings, from 1768 to 1774. In the preface of these, he says: "My original design was to take down the headings only of the several speeches, but in subsequent sessions, the debates will be found more at large and with very few omissions, except in the case of a few members whose rapid delivery outran my ability to keep up with them." He also says, by way of excuse, that "Those favorite words 'hear, hear,' frequently echoed through the house and forbade all hearing."

In America, shorthand was professionally used during colonial, revolutionary and constitutional times.

In 1785, in New York city, a trial between the publishers of the *Journal* and *Gazette*, in which a number of questions regarding the liberty of the American press were in dispute, was reported by Edward Morris, a relative of the great statesman, Gouverneur Morris. The trial of the accused soldiers, just after the Boston massacre, a trial in which the names of Adams and Quincy appear, was taken in shorthand and published.

The minutes of the debates and proceedings of the convention of 1787, which adopted the Constitution of the United States, were taken in shorthand. The proceedings of many of the conventions of the Thirteen States, convened to ratify the Federal

Constitution, were stenographically reported; such as the Virginia Convention, where one of the most memorable and important discussions that ever occurred anywhere—a discussion participated in by Madison, Marshall, Randolph, Patrick Henry and George Mason, or the New York convention, in which Hamilton, Clinton and other notables took part, and also those of Pennsylvania and the two Carolinas, were taken in shorthand. We might also mention earlier conventions which met previous to the Revolution to protest against the enforcement of the unjust laws of England, such as the Virginia convention, when Patrick Henry electrified the audience by his intense patriotism at the time he uttered those memorable words which called forth cries of treason from every part of the house; or, on another occasion when he declared: “I know not what course others may pursue, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.” Who, therefore, can say that shorthand has not been of great value to America in preserving the words and thoughts of all of our Revolutionary heroes, including Washington, Madison, Jefferson, and Franklin (who was also a writer of shorthand), from oblivion—words and thoughts which have been of inestimable benefit to our country.

Nor did the use of shorthand end with the formation of our government. The proceedings and debates of the first Federal Congress in 1789 were reported and published by Thomas Lloyd, to whom we have already referred as publishing a system of shorthand in 1793. Of this report Van Buren said: “It was tolerably full and obviously fair.” Shortly after this, Lloyd returned to England, where he published some of the debates, for which he was confined in Newgate as a political prisoner for five years.

As is well known the proceedings of almost every congress have been reported, though they were not reported officially until 1848, when the present method was adopted, namely, that of employing official shorthand writers, and publishing the proceedings entirely under the direction of the government. Prior to 1848 they were reported and published by contract, although at almost every session of Congress resolutions were introduced for the adoption of the method now in vogue.

In the first Congress, 1789, a resolution was introduced banishing reporters to the gallery. It read, in part, “That the several persons who have published the debates in this House have misrep-

resented them in the most glaring deviations from truth, imputing to some members arguments contradictory, and which were never advanced. To others remarks and observations never made; and, in a great many instances mutilating and not infrequently substituting whole arguments, upon subjects of the greatest moment; thus throwing over the whole proceedings a thick veil of misrepresentation and error; which being done within the House, at the very foot of the Speaker's chair, gives sanction and authenticity to those publications, that reflect upon the House a ridicule and absurdity highly injurious to its privileges and dignity." After debate the resolution was withdrawn without action.

In 1790, permission was asked for the reporters to return to the floor of the House. In the debate one member said: "It has been said that it was the design of the shorthand writers to give a partial representation of our proceedings. I believe if they are not correctly given it is due to the hurry in which business of this kind is conducted." This member also said that he had noticed in the reports that a bill was presented for the "safe keeping of the accounts of the United States" when it should have read "the Acts of the United States;" and again, "that a committee had been appointed for the regulation of the *barbers* of the United States," which should have read, "for the regulation of the *harbors* of the United States." This clearly showed that the words were incorrectly understood by them, and for that reason he wanted them placed where they could hear correctly.

In 1792 a resolution was introduced as follows: "Whereas, an impartial publication of the debates of Congress will aid the Executive in administering the government, the Judiciary in expounding the laws, the government and citizens of the several states in forming a judgment of the conduct of their representatives,—Congress themselves, in revising and amending their legislative proceedings; therefore, be it RESOLVED, that persons of good reputation and skilled in the art of stenography, be, at the next session appointed by ballot, to take and publish, impartially and correctly, its proceedings, etc."

In 1795 it was resolved that the Secretary of State be requested to receive proposals from any person skilled in the art of stenography, or capable of reporting the debates with accuracy, etc.

In 1796, the committee known as the Stenographical Committee,

reported that they conferred with a competent stenographer, and the price for a session would be \$4,000, and recommended his employment. In the debate upon this report, many flattering things were said about the ability of stenographers. One member, however, said, "The humble demand for \$4,000 for the session, is not a great deal more than eight times as much as any member of the House receives. The mere mention of such a sum cannot fail to bring forth swarms of stenographers, as a warm night at the play-house is said to hatch comedians."

In 1796, Thomas Lloyd returned to the United States, and petitioned Congress to be allowed to report the debates. Other applicants for this privilege were Edmond Hogan and David Robertson, who reported the Virginia and North Carolina state conventions; and, subsequently, the trial of Aaron Burr. No definite action, however, was taken.

So the resolutions came and went, but Congress did not officially employ stenographers. Sometimes they were not even allowed in the house, being banished alternatively from the Speaker's side, from the foot of the Speaker's chair, and even from the gallery. In 1802 the following rule was made: "Stenographers shall be admitted and the Speaker shall assign to them such places on the floor as shall not interfere with the convenience of the House." In 1814 it was resolved that "Stenographers admitted to take down the debates shall take an oath to faithfully and impartially report the debates, etc."

In 1820 it was resolved that "Stenographers who may be desirous of reporting the debates shall swear that they will truly and correctly, to their best knowledge, without addition, diminution, or alteration, report the debates, etc." And so the war continued until 1848, when reporters were officially employed.

Notwithstanding the fact that official stenographers were not employed prior to this time, very full reports of the proceedings were made of every Congress, from the first, in 1789. Messrs. Gales and Seaton reported them from that time until 1824 for a newspaper with which they were connected, and these reports were afterward sanctioned by the government and ordered to be printed. In connection with the reporting by these gentlemen, it may be interesting to note that had it not been for the presence of Mr. Gales, the memorable debate between Daniel Webster and

Hayne, on the Constitution, would have been lost to posterity. It was only at the special request of Mr. Webster that he consented to take notes, and this speech proved to be, in the opinion of expert critics, the greatest forensic effort of the 19th century. It is owing to private enterprise entirely and not to the wisdom of Congress that this and many of the great speeches delivered in our early Congresses have been preserved, although the importance of having its proceedings officially reported was continually brought to its attention.

In contrast to the early opposition to the official employment of reporters, it may not be uninteresting to repeat the words used by a member of the House of Representatives a few years ago, in order to show the value now placed upon shorthand in making an authentic report of its proceedings.

"The publishers of the *Congressional Globe* are required to employ the best corps of reporters in the world. These reporters must not only be able, amid the confusion which so often prevails here, to catch every word addressed to the House, but they must dress it into shape, preserving at the same time, as far as possible, the precise language and argument of the speaker. We tumble into their ears oftentimes a muddy stream which filters through their brains and drips from their finger ends clear and bright. It often sounds horrible, but they make it read tolerably well. Some of us are wanting in respect for the King's English; they are not. Our eloquence and logic are often too irresistible for grammatical restraints; they carefully gather the words and marshal them in proper lines. Our impetuosity sometimes shoots over the idea and leaves us in a labyrinth of words; they clear away the redundant rhetoric, catch the idea, and put it in its proper place. It often requires an effort even for them to chase it down, and sometimes they find the alarm was false and that there was no idea at all. Occasionally we get up and roar for an hour at the top of our voices, and we would have no listeners, were it not that those patient and long-suffering men are paid for listening. Once in a long while we jump to our feet, wild with indignation over some reflection made upon the section of the country we have the honor in part to represent, and throw up such a torrent of mud as might eclipse the worst geyser on the Yellowstone. Others may escape to the cloak-room and console themselves with a cigar until the

danger is past, or fly across the avenue and revive their spirits with a glass of Bourbon. But these gentlemen must stay and take it all. *They guard, maintain and uphold the dignity of the American Congress.*"

The fact that shorthand came into existence in two of the most memorable periods of the world's progress, as outlined in the foregoing hasty and superficial observations, together with the facts given in our former paper, you will readily see that it has an important history and that it rises, venerable and renowned, from the dim and distant past.

At the time when the Romans had extended their sway over the whole of the then known world, it was absolutely necessary that they should have some means of causing the debates and weighty resolutions of the Senate to re-echo throughout the vast Empire, and be quickly brought to the knowledge of the whole people. This necessity was fully met by stenography. Again, in the birth of modern civilization, when sciences, arts, literature, oratory and free government, were undergoing their developments, there was a necessity for something which should facilitate their growth and expansion, so, shorthand comes to the rescue at this crisis, and fills the gap. Or, again, when the multitude of questions involving the rights of citizens, the existence of states, and the responsibilities of nations, required speedy adjudication before our tribunals of justice, the "official" is created in order to secure greater effectiveness. Then, again, when that vast commerce, which is the most important factor in building up and improving all nations of to-day requires something to facilitate its direction, shorthand arises once more; and, by its instrumentality, commercial activity receives a new impetus, inasmuch as by its aid the dispatch of business is greatly increased, and the day may not be far distant when all business correspondence will be conducted in shorthand writing through the medium of stenographic secretaries.

As a resume, therefore of the contents of this and the previous paper, you will see that shorthand served, in manifold ways, the intensely practical people of the largest civilized nation of antiquity; that for ten centuries it became almost as effectively unknown as the cities entombed by the great eruption of Vesuvius, for a detailed and graphic description of which event we are indebted to shorthand; that in the time of the general revival of learning, after the Middle Ages, this treasure, in common with many others, was unearthed and revived; and that now, in this utilitarian age, through the spread of the Pitmanic Systems it has become of the utmost importance in all governmental, judicial, legislative, and commercial transactions.

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Mr. Law presented the following resolution which was, by a rising vote, unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, William O. Wyckoff, one of the charter members of this association, and at one time its president, has been summoned by an all-wise Providence from our midst; and

WHEREAS, It is most proper and fitting that we in our annual convention assembled should record our feelings of grief and sorrow at the sad event; and also to express our sincere regard for the high character and moral worth of our deceased brother; Now, therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the death of Mr. Wyckoff the community in which he lived has lost a most exemplary citizen; his children a kind and indulgent father; and this association a faithful and efficient member whose zeal and devotion was always displayed in promoting its growth and advancement.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely sympathize with the children and relatives of our deceased brother in their great loss, and that these resolutions be published in the report of our annual proceedings; and that a copy thereof be transmitted to his children.

ROBERT R. LAW,  
CLARA A. WHITE,  
SESTER H. ORMABY,  
Committee.

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*Members of the Association: \**

Having been denied the pleasure of being present at the meeting of our association in August last, when the announcement of the death of my old teacher, business-associate and long-time friend, was made, I take the liberty even now to add a few words to those of my friend Mr. Bishop, whose eloquent tribute was presented at that time. My words, however, shall be principally of a biographical and reminiscent character.

William Ozman Wyckoff died at his summer residence, Carlton Villa, on the St. Lawrence River, on the 11th day of July, 1895. He was born in the town of Lansing, Tompkins County, on the 16th day of February, 1835. His early boyhood was passed upon his father's farm; but his inclinations and ambitions were in a different direction than towards a farmer's life, and while yet a lad, he entered the Lancasterian School at Ithaca, as a pupil, doing janitor work in payment for his tuition. He afterward entered the office of Dana & Beers and commenced the study of the law, but before the completion of his studies, Fort Sumter was fired upon, his patriotism was aroused, and he enlisted in the first company that left Ithaca for the "seat of war." He was soon promoted through the different grades to the captaincy of his company, which was Company "A," 32d Regiment of N. Y. Vols. He was an efficient officer, a good disciplinarian and a brave and faithful soldier.

At the expiration of his term of service he resumed his studies and was soon thereafter admitted to the bar and commenced to practice his profession. In 1864 he was married to Frances V. Ives, of South Lansing, whose sad and untimely death occurred on the 1st day of June last.

While in the army Captain Wyckoff's attention was attracted to the subject of phonography and much of his leisure time was devoted to the study of the art. Soon after his admission to the bar he also began to do law reporting, and in 1868 was appointed one of the stenographers of the Sixth Judicial District, which position he held until 1882, when he resigned that office, in order to give his entire attention to the type-writer business. At that time the

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\* Mr. Rose was absent from the United States at the time of Mr. Wyckoff's death; and was unable to attend the meeting of the association.

partnership of Wyckoff, Seamans & Benedict was formed, and soon became one of the greatest business firms of the country. Three years ago Mr. Wyckoff retired from active business, purchased a large farm on Carlton Island, built a magnificent residence, and purposed enjoying his remaining years in the pure air, and amid the beautiful scenery of that delightful region. He is survived by two sons, Edward G. and Clarence F., students, pursuing their studies in Cornell University in their native town.

The news of Mr. Wyckoff's death which reached me while in London, was not entirely unexpected. The reports of the condition of his health which I had received from time to time, and especially after the death of Mrs. Wyckoff, were extremely unfavorable. Yet the announcement of his death came upon me with painful suddenness, bringing a feeling of grief and sorrow like unto the announcement of the death of a near and dear relative.

During our long and intimate association I had come to know him well and to appreciate his worth as a man, and as a personal friend. His many kindnesses, and the keen interest he took in my welfare and progress as a stenographer, in the early years of my professional life, had led me to look upon him as even more than friend. I first made his acquaintance in the fall of 1869, and in the spring of 1870 entered his office as a pupil. We were both "old soldiers" and had many inclinations and tastes in common and we soon formed a friendship which continued to the end. We became partners in business, and from 1871 until 1882, did nearly all the reporting for the Supreme Court of the Sixth Judicial District, together with many of the County Courts. In 1892 our paths diverged, his towards his long-cherished desire, the development of the type-writer; mine continuing in the old way.

Mr. Wyckoff was a broad-minded, generous-hearted, sterling man. As a citizen he was above reproach; as a friend and associate he was generous, kind and companionable; and in his home life a devoted husband, and a kind and considerate father. As a stenographer he was skillful and painstaking; and during his professional career an enthusiastic worker for the elevation and advancement of the stenographic profession. I remember the enthusiasm with which he hailed the proposition to form a state association, and I recall, as if but yesterday, our journey together to Syracuse to join our friends in an effort to carry out that project.

He was elected our vice-president at that time, and was afterwards president of the association. He always took an interest in our welfare, and even after his retirement from the profession, gave us his best wishes, together with an occasional generous contribution whenever our funds were inadequate to meet our expenditures.

Many were the young men he befriended; many the poor he assisted; and many the afflicted and distressed he comforted. All along the pathway of his life he left a record of generous deeds, wide benevolence, and kindly sympathy for all.

THEO. C. ROSE.

ELMIRA, November 20, 1895.

MISS CORA M. EMENS: It has been suggested that a motion be made to extend a vote of thanks to the officers of the association the past year, for excellent work done at a time that seemed to be a great crisis in the affairs of the association.

MR. McLOUGHLIN: I had in mind making such a motion. I move that the thanks of the association be extended to the officers; and I think we should be unjust to ourselves and unjust to the association, if we failed as a body to recognize and express our recognition of the invaluable services of the secretary of this association. During the past year, I think the success of the association, as well as the success of the present splendid meeting has been due to Mr. Hill's tireless energy and unremitting labor in our interest. I think a vote of special thanks should be tendered to him for his services, so ably rendered.

MR. HEFFLEY: I second the motion.

Carried.

MISS ETTA A. EMENS: I move that the secretary be paid the sum of \$15 for reporting the proceedings.

Carried.

MR. HEFFLEY: I move that each active and honorary member be entitled to two copies of the proceedings.

Carried.

MR. McLOUGHLIN: I move that the proceedings, when printed, be placed on sale at 25 cents a copy.

MR. HEFFLEY: I should like to amend that motion by authorizing the secretary-treasurer to follow any scheme which he

may deem advisable for the satisfactory sale or other disposition of the proceedings, and that the association put the matter in his hands for such action as he may think best.

Amendment accepted; motion carried.

A vote of thanks was extended to the St. Denis hotel for excellent accommodations and kind treatment.

VICE-PRESIDENT WHITE: In the latter part of Col. Dickinson's letter, he spoke about getting all the official stenographers in the state to join the association. It would be a good thing, if it could be done, to get all those to come in who do not already belong.

MR. HEFFLEY: I move that we do now adjourn to the fourth Thursday in August, 1896, to meet at Syracuse, the secretary to select the place of meeting.

MISS CORA M. EMENS: I second the motion.  
Carried.

## TOPICS.

1. How shall shorthand be taught? A course briefly outlined. What education should be possessed before the study of shorthand is commenced?

2. The law stenographer in relation to the cause of justice.

3. In what way can the shorthand beginner best acquire that useful general information that is necessary to the performance of the highest grade of work?

4. Pen and pencil in reporting. Which is better?

5. Salaries. What ought to be the salary of a shorthand beginner, the salary of a thoroughly competent office stenographer, and the salaries of court reporters in city and country courts?

6. Reporting reminiscences.

7. The benefit of general reading to a stenographer.

8. The future of our profession.

9. Rest and recreation.

10. The humorous side of the reporter's life.

Attention is directed to many topics still untouched in former reports from which to select. Members are not, of course, restricted to topics proposed by preceding committees, but are invited to select themes as individual preference may suggest.

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The following meetings of the association have been held since the original call of August 18, 1876:

1. Syracuse, August 26, 1876.
2. Ithaca, August 20, 1877.
3. Rochester, August 21 and 22, 1878.
4. Saratoga Spa, August 20 and 21, 1879.
5. Syracuse, August 19 and 20, 1880.
6. Buffalo, August 24 and 25, 1881.
7. New York, August 1 and 2, 1882.
8. Watkins, August 21 and 22, 1883.
9. Greene County, Laurel House, August 19, 1884.
10. Niagara Falls, August 18 and 19, 1885.
11. Caldwell, August 17 and 18, 1886.
12. Alexandria Bay, August 16 and 17, 1887.
13. Caldwell, August 21 and 22, 1888.
14. Alexandria Bay, August 20 and 21, 1889.
15. Greene County, Mountain House, August 19 and 20, 1890.
16. Rochester, August 18 and 19, 1891.
17. Saratoga Spa., August 25 and 26, 1892.
18. Niagara Falls, August 24 and 25, 1893.
19. West Point, August 23 and 24, 1894.
20. New York, August 22 and 23, 1895.

## OFFICERS N. Y. S. S. A.

President.		Vice-President.	
1876-77	W. W. Osgoodby.	W. O. Wyckoff.	
1877-78	W. W. Osgoodby.	W. O. Wyckoff.	
1878-79	P. Deming.	D. C. McEwen.	
1879-80	S. C. Rodgers.	Wm. H. Slocum.	
1880-81	C. G. Tinsley.	Worden E. Payne.	
1881-82	Geo. H. Thornton.	Fred M. Adams.	
1882-83	Geo. R. Bishop.	A. P. Little.	
1883-84	Theo. C. Rose.	B. Moynahan.	
1884-85	A. P. Little.	James M. Ruso.	
1885-86	Wm. H. Slocum.	Henry L. Beach.	
1886-87	W. O. Wyckoff.	Geo. C. Appel.	
1887-88	E. B. Dickinson.	John B. Murray.	
1888-89	B. Moynahan.	Thos. R. Griffith.	
1889-90	Henry L. Beach.	Chas. L. Guy.	
1890-91	Thos. R. Griffith.	Mrs. C. E. Brockway.	
1891-92	S. C. Rodgers.	Geo. H. Thornton.	
1892-93	Geo. R. Bishop.	Chas. F. King.	
1893-94	Theo. C. Rose.	Benj. W. Readshaw.	
1894-95	Chas. F. King.	Norman P. Hefley.	
1895-96	Geo. H. Thornton.	Mrs. Clara A. White.	

## Secretary-Treasurer.

1876-77	C. G. Tinsley.
1877-78	C. G. Tinsley.
1878-79	W. F. Duffield.
1879-80	Theo. C. Rose.
1880-81	Geo. H. Thornton.
1881-82	A. L. Woodward.
1882-83	Thomas H. Griffith.
1883-84	Herbert A. Briggs.
1884-85	M. Jeanette Ballantyne.
1885-86	Harvey Husted.
1886-87	*Wm. S. Kerahner, (Theo. C. Rose.)
1887-88	Theo. C. Rose.
1888-89	Henry L. Beach.
1889-90	Mrs. E. F. Rowley.
1890-91	Mrs. Clara A. White.
1891-92	Irving C. Hutchins.
1892-93	Wm. Loeb, Jr.
1893-94	Etta A. Emens.
1894-95	Kendrick C. Hill.
1895-96	Kendrick C. Hill.

Librarian—1885-86, Mrs. Eliza B. Burns.

1886-86, Miss M. Jeanette Ballantyne,

\*Deceased May 4, 1887.

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## OUR DEAD.

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### ACTIVE MEMBERS.

William F. Duffield, Rochester, 1880.  
 Worden K. Payne, Albany, 1881.  
 Mary E. Collins, New York, 1885.  
 William S. Kershner, Elmira, 1887.  
 Alanson W. Caswell, New York, 1889.  
 Charles B. Post, Kingston, 1891.  
 William O. Wyckoff, New York, 1895.

### HONORARY MEMBERS.

Frank P. Tupper, Towanda, Pa., 1884.  
 Joseph Cox, Philadelphia, 1885.  
 Cornelius Walford, London, 1885.  
 John J. McElhone, Washington, 1890.  
 Melbourne H. Ford, Grand Rapids, 1891.  
 James M. W. Yerrinton, Boston, 1893.  
 D. L. Scott-Browne, New York, 1894.  
 Andrew J. Graham, New York, 1894.  
 Thomas J. Tilley, Kansas City, 1895.

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## OFFICERS FOR 1895-96.

President—GEORGE H. THORNTON,.....Buffalo.  
 Vice-President—MRS. CLARA A. WHITE, .....Elmira.  
 Secretary and Treasurer—KENDRICK C. HILL,....New York.  
 Librarian—MISS M. JEANETTE BALLANTYNE,....Rochester.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

EDWARD B. DICKINSON, Chairman, New York.  
 GEORGE R. BISHOP, New York; THEO. C. ROSE, Elmira;  
 SPENCER C. RODGERS, Troy; MISS CORA M. EMENS, Rochester;  
 THE PRESIDENT, *ex-officio*.

### EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

First District—PETER P. McLoughlin,.....New York.  
 Second District—JOHN B. CAREY,.. .....Brooklyn.  
 Third District—WM. LOEB, Jr.,... .....Albany.  
 Fourth District—ROBERT R. LAW,.....Cambridge.  
 Fifth District—WILLIS H. PORTER,.....Watertown.  
 Sixth District—THEODORE C. ROSE,.....Elmira.  
 Seventh District—WM. W. OSGOODBY,.....Rochester.  
 Eighth District—ROBERT C. CHAPIN,.....Buffalo.

### CONVENTION COMMITTEES.

#### ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS.

Peter P. McLoughlin,      Etta A. Emens,      Sarah A. Moore.

#### NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.

M. Jeanette Ballantyne,      Robert R. Law,      Wm. Anderson.

#### PLACE OF MEETING.

Clara A. White,      Sidney C. Ormsby,      Etta A. Emens.

#### TOPICS.

Wm. Anderson,      Wm. L. Mason,      Arthur B. Cook.

#### PRINTING.

Sarah A. Moore,      Theodore C. Rose.      Kendrick C. Hill.

#### WYCKOFF RESOLUTIONS.

Robert R. Law,      Clara A. White,      Senter H. Ormsby.

#### DRAFTING LEGISLATIVE ACT.

Edward B. Dickinson, George R. Bishop, Peter P. McLoughlin,  
 William W. Osgoodby,      Theodore C. Rose.



### Active Members.

Anderson, Wm.	27 Pine Street, New York.
Baker, Frederick A.	Criminal Court Building, New York.
Balch, Charles W.	99 Nassau Street, New York.
Ballantyne, M. Jeanette.	127 & 129 Powers Building, Rochester.
Beach, Henry L.	Binghamton.
Beard, Frank S.	82 Franklin Street, New York.
Bensley, Mark F.	Buffalo.
Bird, W. Newton	Floral Park.
Bishop, George R.	New York Stock Exchange, New York.
Brice, David N.	Surrogate's Court, Albany.
Brolley, Alfred S.	Court of Appeals, Albany.
Carey, John B.	Room 25, Court House, Brooklyn.
Chaffee, Willis G.	Oswego.
Chapin, Robert C.	Buffalo.
Charles, W. P.	Brooklyn City R. R. Building, Brooklyn.
Cleary, D. J.	Plattsburgh.
Cook, Arthur B.	8 Broad Street (Room 89), New York.
Cragin, Irving F.	62 Erie Co. Bank Building, Buffalo.
Craig, Fred W.	280 W. 22d Street, New York.
Culver, W. R.	Opera House Building, Lockport.
Dickinson, Edward B.	Mills Building, New York.
Dusenbury, Bertram L.	52 Wall Street, New York.
Emens, Etta A.	300 & 302 Powers Building, Rochester.
Emens, Cora M.	300 & 302 Powers Building, Rochester.
Eyre, Harold.	214 Seventh Avenue, New York.
Gokey, Charles F.	New York.
Griffith, Thomas R.	409 Powers Building, Rochester.
Hall, Hobart B.	180 Livingston Street, Brooklyn.
Hefley, Norman P.	Hefley School of Commerce, Brooklyn.
Hill, Kendrick C.	117 Duane Street, New York.
Hutchins, Irving C.	409 Powers Building, Rochester.
King, Charles F.	184 Glen Street, Glens Falls.
King, Henry G.	Fort Edward.
Law, Robert R.	Cambridge.
Little, Adelbert P.	409, 411, 412, 413 Powers Bldg, Rochester.
Loeb, William, Jr.	88 Washington Avenue, Albany.
Lowe, A. W.	Mexico.
MacDonald, Allan R.	State Dept. Public Inst., Albany.

McLoughlin, Peter P. .... 150 Nassau St. (Room 927), New York.  
 Martin, John P. .... Watertown.  
 Mason, Wm. L. .... 156 Fifth Avenue, New York.  
 Miller, Charles M. .... The Packard College, New York.  
 Miner, E. N. . . . *Illustrated Phonographic World*, 45 Liberty St., N.Y  
 Moore, Sarah A. .... Advertiser Building, Elmira.  
 Moynahan, Bartholomew .... 120 Broadway, New York  
 Munson, George W. The Rochester Business University, Rochester.  
 Munson, James E. .... 75 Tribune Building, New York.  
 Murray, John B. .... Delhi.  
 Needham, J. Gale. .... 67 Wall Street, New York.  
 Nugent, James. .... 129 E. 50th Street, New York.  
 Ormsby, Senter H. .... Mills Building, New York.  
 Ormsby, Sidney C. .... Mills Building, New York.  
 Osgoodby, William W. .... 309 Powers Building, Rochester.  
 Pagan, C. F. H. .... 11 Prospect Place, Brooklyn.  
 Parsons, Clarence A. .... 55 Liberty Street, New York.  
 Porter, Willis H. .... Court House, Watertown.  
 Potts, John R. .... World Building, New York.  
 Readshaw, Dr. Benj. W. .... 128 Bird Avenue, Buffalo.  
 Ridgway, Miss A. K. .... 145 Broadway, New York.  
 Rodgers, Spencer C. Tweddle Bldg, Albany, and Mutual Bldg, Troy.  
 Rose, Theodore C. .... Court House Annex, Elmira.  
 Ruso, James M. .... 51, 52, 53 Tweddle Building, Albany.  
 Shalvey, Edward J. .... Criminal Court Building, New York.  
 Smith, E. Darwin. .... 409 Powers Building, Rochester.  
 Soule, Herbert C. .... 109 Powers Building, Rochester.  
 Teller Claribel. .... Seneca Falls.  
 Thomas, William M. .... Attorney-General's Office, Albany.  
 Thornton, George H. .... 79-80 White Building, Buffalo.  
 Tombo, Dr. Rudolf. .... 2 Ridge Place (Mott Haven), New York.  
 Tuttle, Robert R. .... 33 Pine Street, New York.  
 Uhlein, John C. .... Utica.  
 Waldo, Lucius A. .... Senate Chamber, Albany.  
 Walworth, George S. .... 110 E. 125th Street, New York.  
 Weaver, A. B. .... Erie Co. Bank Building, Buffalo.  
 Webster, Evan S. .... 320 Potter Building, New York.  
 White, Mrs. Clara A. .... Chemung Canal Bank Building, Elmira.  
 Woodie, Leopold. .... 96 Broadway, New York.

### Honorary Members.

Bacon, James P.....	9 Pemberton Square, Boston.
Bartholomew, M. M.....	New York.
Bender, Charles H.....	Grand Rapids.
Bengough, Thomas.....	Toronto.
Benham, Katharine E.....	Burlington, Vt.
Bennett, J. L.....	81 Clark Street, Chicago.
Bigelow, Timothy.....	City Court, Part I., Brooklyn.
Bissell, Miss Frances.....	St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Bowman, John G.....	627 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.
Brown, David Wolfe.....	1702 Oregon Avenue, Washington.
Burt Frank.....	Boston.
Butcher, Nelson R.....	Toronto.
Crommeline, R. F.....	Harrisburg.
Cross, J. George.....	108 State Street, Chicago.
Davies, H. J.....	Cleveland.
Dement, Isaac S.....	323 Dearborn Street, Chicago.
Deming, Philander.....	12 Jay Street, Albany.
Deming, Henry C.....	Harrisburg.
Desjardins, Alphonse.....	Levis, Canada.
Devine, Andrew.....	House of Representatives, Washington.
Dixon, George S.....	124 Lexington Avenue, New York.
Dunlop, N. Stewart.....	C. P. R. Offices, Toronto.
Easton, Edw. P.....	Washington.
Fairbanks, F. P.....	New York.
Fritcher, Charles E.....	Williamsport, Pa.
Gage, Jennie A.....	Saginaw, Mich.
Gardiner, Edwin R.....	Providence, R. I.
Gardner, Stanley.....	McKeesport, Pa.
Goodner, Ivan W.....	Huron, Dak.
Guy, Charles L.....	New York.
Hayward, Willard L.....	Newark, N. J.
Head, Arthur.....	Towanda, Pa.
Hemperley, Francis H.....	603 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Hitchcock, George F.....	Minneapolis.
Horton, E. E.....	Toronto.
Howard, Jerome B.....	Cincinnati.
Irland, Fred.....	House of Representatives, Washington.
Johnston, Minnie L.....	Youngstown, O.

Kellogg, George.....	744 Broadway, New York.
McEwan, Oliver.....	London.
McGurrin, Frank E . . .	Salt Lake City, Utah.
Meigs, Charles H.....	New Haven, Conn.
Meyer, Oscar . . . . .	Allentown, Pa.
Mimms, John H . . . . .	St. Albans, Vt.
Mitchell, Robert W . . . . .	Portland, Ore.
Patteson, Mrs. S. Louise . . . . .	Cleveland.
Perry, W. W.....	Toronto.
Pinckney, Thomas . . . . .	Toronto.
Pitman, Benn.....	Phon. Inst., Cincinnati.
Pitman, Isaac.....	Bath, England.
Reed, Thomas A. . . . .	87 Curaitor Lane, London, England.
Ritchie, Jehn.....	Chicago.
Rockwell, Julius E . . . . .	Atlanta, Ga.
Rockwell, Irving C. . . . .	Chicago.
Shinghaw, D. N.....	Simla Hills, India.
Smith, A. J.....	Manchester, N. H.
Smith, Henry T.....	Toronto.
Squibb, F. J . . . . .	Chicago.
Thornton, William H. . . . .	14 Fargo Avenue, Buffalo.
Van Dyne, Fred.....	Surgeon-General's Office, Washington.
Walch, Henry F.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Wilson, S. G.....	231 S. Fifth Street, Philadelphia.
Woodworth, W. A.....	Denver.
Wright, William B.....	28 School Street, Boston.
York, E. D.....	Room 613, 44 Broadway, New York.
Zeibig, Julius W. . . . .	Dresden, Saxony.

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

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The following is the Constitution and By-Laws adopted August 20th, 1879, with subsequent amendments:

## CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.—NAME.

SECTION 1. The name of this society shall be "THE NEW YORK STATE STENOGRAPHERS' ASSOCIATION."

### ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

SECTION 1. This association is organized for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a proper standard of efficiency in the profession, and of uniting in fellowship the stenographers of the state of New York.

### ARTICLE III.—MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. Any reputable stenographer shall be eligible to membership under the rules hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. No person actively engaged in the profession, who is a resident of this state, shall be elected to honorary membership in this association.

### ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of the association shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary and treasurer, a librarian, and an executive committee of five. Such officers shall be elected at the annual meetings of the association.

SEC. 2. An examining committee, consisting of one from each judicial district, shall be appointed by the incoming president at each annual meeting of the association.

SEC. 3. The president, or in his absence the vice-president, or in the absence of both, one of the members, shall preside at all meetings of the association. The president shall be *ex-officio* a member of the executive committee.

SEC. 4. The duties of the president, vice-president and secretary, shall be those usually pertaining to those offices. The secretary shall also act as treasurer. It shall be the duty of the executive committee to audit all bills, to levy assessments for defraying the necessary expenses of the association, and to act generally upon all questions affecting the interests of the profession, intermediate the meetings of the association, and whenever a majority of the committee deem it necessary, they may call special meetings.

SEC. 5. The treasurer shall have the custody of the funds of the association, and shall pay all bills audited and allowed by the executive committee.

#### ARTICLE V.—PROPOSAL AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. The name of any applicant for membership may be proposed at any time by a member of the association to any one of the examining committee.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of such member of the examining committee to subject the applicant to the following tests:

First—The applicant shall be fairly tried as to his speed of writing. If he fail to write legibly, at the rate of 150 words per minute, matter never before written by him, for five consecutive minutes, his application shall be rejected.

Second—If this preliminary test be successfully passed, the applicant shall be fairly tried in actual reporting, and the result of such trial, including a specimen of his notes and a transcript thereof, shall be submitted to the other members of the committee.

Third—If the provisions of the tests have been satisfactorily complied with, the applicant shall be entitled to the privileges and benefits of membership, but shall not be fully admitted until he shall have received two-thirds of the votes of the members present at the next regular meeting of the association.

SEC. 3. All elections shall be by ballot.

SEC. 4. The tests hereby specified may be waived in the case of a stenographer of well-known or sufficiently vouched for competency, of good moral character and business integrity, and upon the unanimous vote of the active members present at any regular meeting, such stenographer shall be admitted to full membership.

SEC. 5. The proceedings of this committee shall be deemed confidential, and shall be kept secret, except so far as written or printed reports of the same shall be necessarily or officially made to the association.

SEC. 6. The executive committee of the association, together with one member of the examining committee, (such member of the examining committee to be from the district of which the candidate for membership shall be a resident), shall be empowered, *ad interim*, to consider the application of and admit new members to the association, with the same force and effect as though they had been elected by the association in annual meeting, the member so elected to pay annual dues for the year then current.

#### ARTICLE VI.—COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES.

SECTION 1. The committee on grievances shall be composed of the same members as comprise the executive committee, and may receive and hear all complaints preferred by any member against any other member for unprofessional conduct in his relations to the association, or any member of the same, provided the same be in writing, plainly and specifically stating the matter complained of, and subscribed by the complainant.

SEC. 2. The committee may also, in their discretion, hear any specific complaint which may be made to them by any member in writing, affecting the interest of the stenographic profession or the practice of shorthand; and may report thereon to the association, with such recommendations as they may deem advisable.

SEC. 3. All complaints so made shall be considered and disposed of by the committee in the manner provided in the by-laws.

SEC. 4. The proceedings of this committee shall be deemed confidential, and kept secret, except so far as written or printed reports of the same shall be necessarily and officially made to the association.

#### ARTICLE VII.—OTHER COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The association may provide, in its by-laws, for other committees, and each committee shall at each stated annual meeting, report a summary of its proceedings since its last annual report (except such matters as the constitution or by-laws require to be kept secret) together with any suggestions deemed suitable and appertaining to its powers, duties or business.

**SEC. 2.** A general summary of all such annual reports, and of the proceedings of the annual meetings shall be prepared and printed by and under the direction of the executive committee; also, the constitution and by-laws, as then existing, name and residence of officers, committees, and members of the association, as soon as practicable after each annual meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VIII.—LIABILITIES.**

**SECTION 1.** No officer, committee, or other person, shall have power to make the association liable for any debt amounting to more than one-half of the excess of money in the treasurer's hands, beyond that required to meet prior liabilities, nor to make any contract binding personally upon any member of the association.

#### **ARTICLE IX.—MEETINGS.**

**SECTION 1.** There shall be an annual meeting of the association, held at such place in the state as may be designated at the preceding meeting, on the fourth Thursday in August, and such adjourned meetings as the association, by a vote of three-fourths of all present, may determine, and at any such adjourned meeting any business of the association may be transacted, except the election of officers.

**SEC. 2.** Special meetings may be called at any time by the president or executive committee, of their own motion, and shall be called by the secretary, upon the request of ten members, in writing, specifying the purpose thereof. At such special meeting no business shall be transacted, except such as shall be specified in the notice thereof. At every meeting of the association the presence of nine members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

**SEC. 3.** The president of the association shall call a meeting of the executive committee within thirty days after the adjournment of the annual convention at which they have been elected; and at such meeting the executive committee shall organize by the election from their number of a chairman who shall preside at all meetings of that committee; and of a secretary who shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of such meetings. In case any member of the executive committee is unable to attend a meeting of that committee, he may send his duly executed proxy to any active member of the association, who may represent him at such meeting.



**ARTICLE X.—EXPULSION.**

**SECTION 1.** Any active member may be suspended or expelled for unprofessional conduct in his relations to the association or toward any member of the same, after conviction thereof by such method of procedure as may be prescribed by the by-laws. Any honorary member may be suspended by unanimous vote of those present at any annual meeting; and all interest in the property of the association of persons ceasing to be members by expulsion, resignation or otherwise, shall thereupon vest absolutely in the association.

**ARTICLE XI.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

**SECTION 1.** The election of officers shall take place at the annual meetings of the association to be held on the fourth Thursday in August in each year.

**SEC. 2.** The terms of office shall continue for one year, or until their successors shall be elected.

**SEC. 3.** Should any office, except that of president, become vacant before the close of the term of office, it shall be filled by appointment by the executive committee.

**ARTICLE XII.—CONSTITUTION.**

**SECTION 1.** This constitution shall go into effect immediately, and may be amended by a two-third vote of the members present at any annual meeting.

## BY-LAWS.

### ARTICLE I.—PRESIDING OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The president, and in his absence, the vice-president, shall preside at all meetings of the association. If neither of these officers be present, a president *pro tem.* shall be chosen by and from the attending members.

SEC. 2. Nine members of the association shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

### ARTICLE II.—ORDER OF BUSINESS.

SECTION 1. At annual and adjourned meetings, after the appropriate opening thereof, the order of business will be:

1. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting.
2. Nominations for membership.
3. Report of Executive Committee.
4. Report of Treasurer.
5. Report of Committee on Admissions.
6. Election of Members.
7. Election of Officers.
8. Reports of other Committees.
9. Reading of Papers.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

This order of business may be changed, at any meeting, by vote of a majority of the members present. Except as otherwise provided by the constitution and by-laws, the usual parliamentary rules and orders will govern proceedings.

### ARTICLE III.—FEES AND EXPENSES.

SECTION 1. No fee shall be required from members. The expenses of the association shall be paid out of a fund to be collected by assessment to be levied by the executive committee, from time to time, as may be necessary.

### ARTICLE IV.—ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. If any person elected, does not, within three months after notice thereof, signify his acceptance, he shall be regarded as declining to become a member.

#### ARTICLE V.—NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

SECTION 1. If any member fail to pay the amount of his assessment within sixty days after notice by mail shall have been served upon him by the secretary, it shall be the duty of the secretary to serve upon him, by mail, an additional notice, that unless the same be paid within one month thereafter, the name of such member shall be stricken from the rolls; and, in default of payment at or before the expiration of that time, his membership and all rights in respect thereof shall cease. But upon his written application, satisfactorily explaining the default, and upon the payment of all dues to the date of such application, the executive committee shall have power to reinstate such defaulting members.

#### ARTICLE VI.—THE COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES.

SECTION 1. Whenever a complaint is presented to the committee, if the committee shall be of opinion that the matters alleged are of sufficient importance, they shall cause to be served upon the person complained of a copy of such complaint, and not less than thirty days' notice of the time and place of investigation, and cause similar notice to be served on the complainant. The answer or defense to such complaint must be in writing. Upon the noticed hearing, each party shall be heard by the committee, or a sub-committee appointed for the purpose by the chairman of the executive committee. After hearing the case, the proceedings, together with the conclusions of the committee, shall be transmitted to the secretary, who shall present the same at the succeeding annual meeting. If, upon such report, the charges shall be sustained by a two-third vote of those present, the accused may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled, at the option of the association.

#### ARTICLE VII.—SESSIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

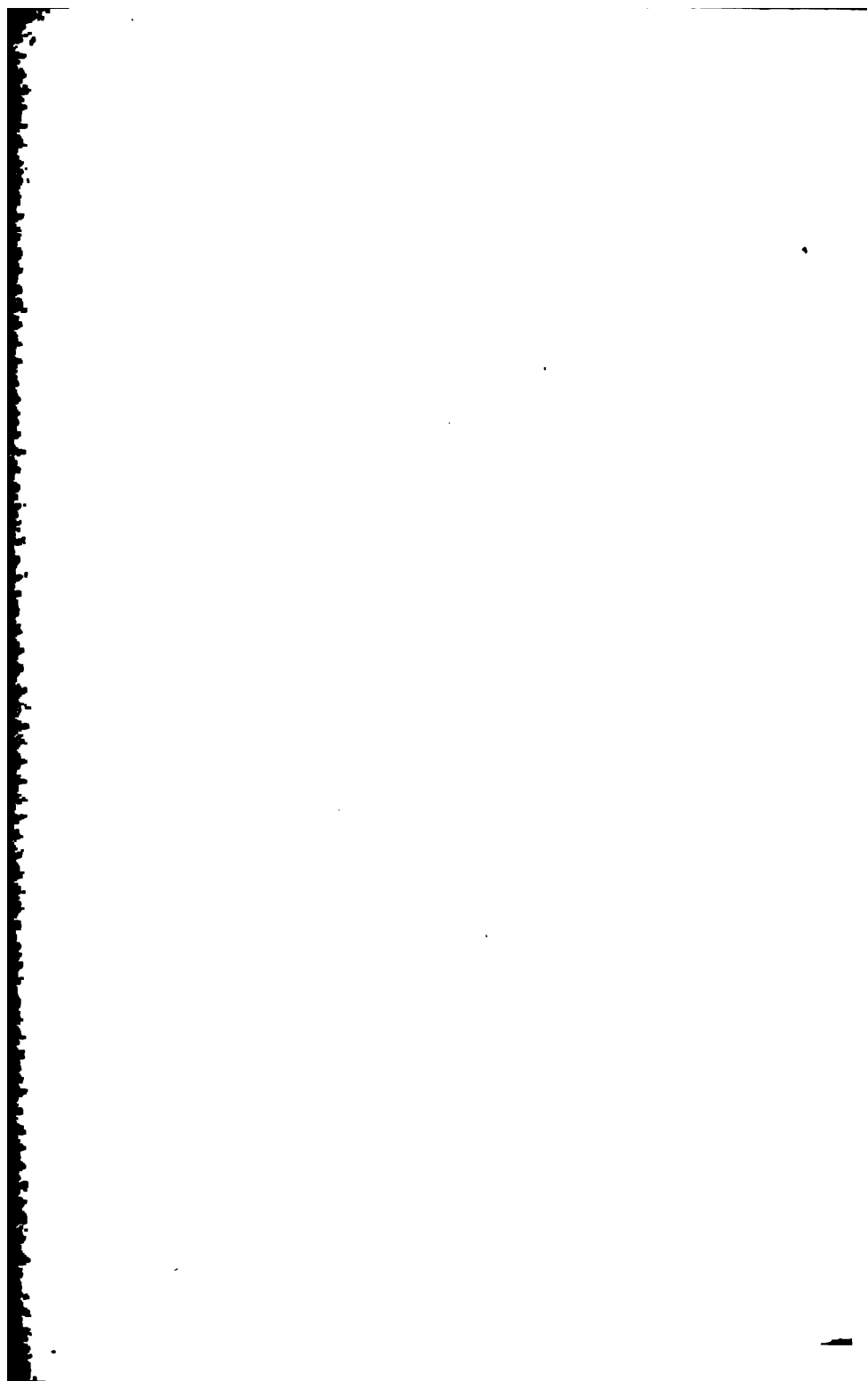
SECTION 1. The sessions of the association shall be held with closed doors, unless otherwise ordered.

#### ARTICLE VIII.—AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS.

SECTION 1. These by-laws may be amended by a two-third vote of the members present at any annual meeting.

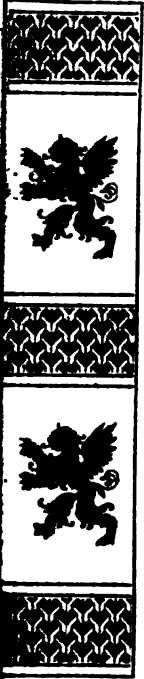
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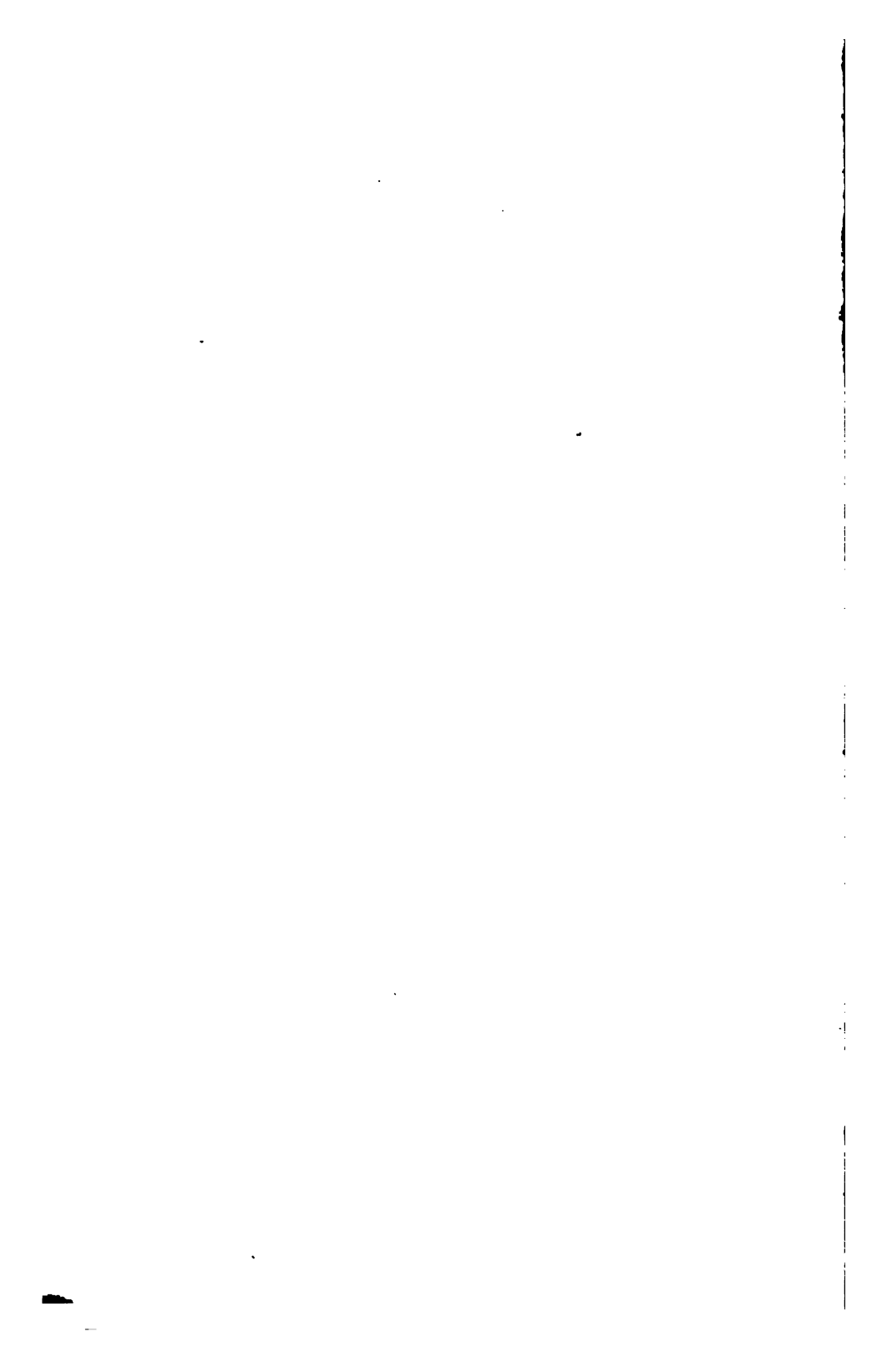
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**New York State  
Stenographers' Association.**



**Twenty-first Annual Meeting.  
1896.**





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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NEW YORK STATE

*Stenographers' Association,*

INCLUDING PAPERS READ,  
DISCUSSIONS, ETC.,

AT THE

Twenty-first Annual Meeting,

HELD AT

"THE YATES," SYRACUSE, N. Y.,

AUGUST 27TH AND 28TH, 1896.

---

ROCHESTER, N. Y.,  
THE JOHN P. SMITH PRINTING HOUSE.  
1896.

REPORTED BY KENDRICK C. HILL, 117 DUANE ST., NEW YORK.

# N. Y. S. S. A.

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## TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION.

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### PROCEEDINGS.

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The twenty-first annual meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association was held at "The Yates," Syracuse, N. Y., on Thursday and Friday, the 27th and 28th of August, 1896.

The following members responded to the roll-call:

#### ACTIVE MEMBERS.

BALLANTYNE, MISS M. JEANETTE .	Rochester.
BEACH, HENRY L. . . . .	Binghamton.
BISHOP, GEORGE R. . . . .	New York.
GRIFFITH, THOMAS R. . . . .	Rochester.
HILL, KENDRICK C. . . . .	New York.
LAW, ROBERT R. . . . .	Cambridge.
LITTLE, ADELBERT P. . . . .	Rochester.
LOEB, JR., WILLIAM . . . . .	Albany.
MARTIN, JOHN P. . . . .	New York.
OSGOODBY, WILLIAM W. . . . .	Rochester.
RODGERS, SPENCER C. . . . .	Troy.
ROSE, THEODORE C. . . . .	Elmira.
SOULE, HERBERT C. . . . .	Rochester.
TELLER, MISS CLARIBEL . . . . .	Seneca Falls.
THORNTON, GEORGE H. . . . .	Buffalo.
UHLEIN, JOHN C. . . . .	Watertown.
WHITE, MRS. CLARA A. . . . .	Elmira.
WILSON, JOHN H. . . . .	Syracuse.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS.

HEAD, ARTHUR . . . . .	Towanda, Pa.
HITCHCOCK, GEORGE F. . . . .	Minneapolis, Minn.

There were also present, from Syracuse and numerous other places: Mrs. Henry L. Beach, Mrs. Thos. R. Griffith, Mrs. Carrie A. Berkley, Miss Annie E. McCulloch, Miss Ada F. Gillette, John E. Ketcham, J. A. Dakin, Miss Charlotte Brastow, Miss Addie A. Perkins, Miss Nellie R. Jones, Fred Nolta, Albert Spencer, Fred Randolph Smith. Miss Marie Kelly, Miss Grace H. Boynton, J. C. Carson, Miss Carrie Tierney, Miss Mamie Lipsky, Miss Lillian M. Rogers, Miss Helen B. Dwyer, S. M. Henley, J. F. Halloran, Miss Beatrice G. Hunt, Miss Cora Phares, Miss Julia K. Downey, Miss Mamie A. Welch, Miss Sophia Davis, Miss Helen E. Knight, Miss Gussie E. S. Doyle, S. J. Willwerth, Mrs. Jennie Bartlett, Miss Ella A. McDonald, Miss Mabel Foote, Miss Charlotte Harrison, Mrs. F. H. Whitman, Mrs. L. A. Hinman, Chas. H. White, J. L. Kershaw, G. H. White, Isaac Abelson, Miss Hogan, and others.

There were also in attendance, throughout the convention, reporters from *The Syracuse Post, News, Courier, Standard, Journal*, and *Herald*, to whom the Association is indebted for extended and excellent accounts of the convention.

Thursday, August 27th, at 11.15 o'clock a. m., having gathered in the very spacious and comfortable assembly room of "The Yates," President Thornton introduced Prof. B. J. Henley, president of the Syracuse Stenographers' Association, who delivered the following address of welcome:

*Ladies and Gentlemen of the New York State Stenographers' Association :*

It is difficult for me to find words to express to you my hearty appreciation of the duty placed upon me to welcome you in behalf of the stenographic element of old Onondaga, on this, the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of your organization.

While the members of the stenographic profession in Syracuse have never been actively identified in the ranks of your association, we enjoy with pardonable pride the distinction of our city being recognized as the birthplace of an organization that has lived and prospered for twenty-one

years, which to-day convenes at its birthplace to celebrate its twenty-first anniversary, full of life, and youthful vigor.

Although the birth of the stenographic art dates back over three hundred years, it had dozed in comparative obscurity until the present century. It has remained for the genius and progressive spirit of the nineteenth century to rouse it from its slumbers of three hundred years, to perfect its principles and place it foremost in the professional ranks of the commercial world. During the past fifteen years the art has developed with wonderful rapidity, and is now, indeed, an important factor to the business and professional man in the various movements of commercial enterprise.

To-day it is an art which, while practiced by hundreds and thousands of our young people throughout our land, has not reached its zenith of perfection, nor have its present capabilities been fully tested, except by the comparatively few. It has been studied by tens of thousands, it is practiced by thousands, but within the walls of this building to-day and under the auspices of the Syracuse Stenographers' Protective Association, and in behalf of the stenographers of the city, it is my extreme pleasure to welcome the honored few, whom we are proud to recognize as the leaders in the advancement and perfection of the art. We heartily welcome you to our city to-day, and sincerely hope that your presence in our midst may inspire our stenographers to a proper appreciation of their calling, and that your efforts in behalf of the stenographic art and its followers may meet with the crowning success that they truly deserve. [Applause.]

At the request of the President, Mr. George R. Bishop responded, as follows :

*Mr. President :*

When, three minutes ago, you informed me that you should call on me to respond for this association to an address of welcome that was to be then immediately pronounced—and which address we have just heard, I had no knowledge of the terms in which that address would be expressed, or of the sentiments to which the speaker would give utterance. The cordiality which he

had evinced in his casual conversation, led me to anticipate that nothing would be said that we would not be gratified to hear; but the forms and terms in which cordial sentiments may be embodied, are infinitely varied, from dullness to fervid eloquence. It is sufficient to say, that this address of welcome was so far removed from dullness that one is encouraged to respond, not with apathy, but with heartiness and fervor. But to respond in any adequate way requires at least a few moments for preparation.

I am much mystified concerning the basis of the supposition on your part, that there would be any special appropriateness in assigning to me the pleasant task of acknowledging our appreciation of the sentiments of the speaker. It is true I have, though not a Syracusan, known something of the city, from occasional visits during a period extending back to 1865. I have driven pretty well over its streets, and out into and through its suburbs, in all directions of the compass. I have been to the east, the west, the north, the south of it, on all the most feasible highways; —I have been over the height of James street, and out into the open country beyond; I have been to the lakeside, beyond the fair grounds at the west; I have driven through the suburb called Liverpool; I have witnessed a green-corn dance at the reservation up the Onondaga Valley, where it was difficult even with the accessories of red men in war-paint, and squaws in rich blankets of blue broadcloth, to rehabilitate the scenes and the evidences of tribal supremacy that shine so vividly in the pages of Parkman; I have sailed on the lake, even through the outlet and into the Seneca river; I have been driven to the salt-works, where the steam-pumps were constantly at work, by a friend who sought refreshment and invigoration in the salt baths that could be had at a small bath-house somewhere down beyond North Salina street; and, if the citizens of this town are still proud of their salinity, as of old, I am willing to admit that I have probably seen as many of the salt-works down towards the lake, and as many "old salts," venerable devotees at the shrine of Bacchus, in the streets of this classically named Onondagan metropolis, as has any one of this visiting company.

Remembering the fate of Nikias and his fellow Achaians who laid siege to the Syracuse of antiquity, I was surprised when a year ago I read that at the meeting then held (from which I was unavoidably absent,) this city had been chosen to be our meeting place for 1896. Still, I knew what a stalwart band our members, when fully represented and aroused, constitute; and had I foreseen that as many of our old guard would be present as we see here to-day, my confidence would have risen to the point of enthusiasm; for I knew that though the old guard may die, it never surrenders. Had some of its war-scarred veterans arisen to make this response, there would have been no occasion for trepidation; it would have been better and more admirably done. Had Osgoodby, our first president, or Rodgers, our second, or had you, now a second time an incumbent of the office, undertaken it, the torrent of eloquence would have been irresistible; we should have been barely able to cling to our staunchest moorings; and Syracuse would have been at your feet. And the cause would not be far to seek. As to yourself and Rodgers, each has the incitement of an exalted public function; you, as holding watch and ward over the western end of that great artery of commerce, the Erie canal, while he, perched high on the "frowning battlements of windy Troy," keeps a sleepless vigil over the eastern; each deeply touched by listening to the tumultuous rush and swash of its waters about the prows and sterns of its fleet of snub-nosed craft. Or if Beach or Rose, both ornaments of the "southern tier," the former its most brilliant story-teller, the latter with power to draw at will from rich stores of quaint and humorous experiences,—if *either* of them had attempted it, what a glorious five minutes we should have had, for the combined music of the Chemung and the Susquehanna would have been vibrant in the tones of either. Or, if we could have persuaded Little to withdraw his ear for a moment from those sensitive threads by means of which he forever seeks to catch premonitions of the future, concerning what its next demand will be in the way of "supplies,"—then, too, should we have heard eloquence indeed! But you have ordered it otherwise, and I yield as gracefully as I can.

It is certainly very pleasant to be permitted to say a word (and when one is taken, as it were, by the neck and flung into the arena, unadmonished, he cannot say much more than that,) in answer to these gentle phrases that the speaker has spoken. It is pleasant to hear, again, of the rank which this city, or men residing here, have held, in promulgating a knowledge of our art. One name, that of Mr. Holmes, rises instantly to memory; and you know his only begins the list. If the gentleman whose words we have just heard projects into this decade, in his own work, the traditions and the performances of those men, he is making a not unworthy contribution to the agencies of our new American civilization. I hope he is doing that, and that there are others in the city who are doing as well as he, on those same lines. Holmes is understood to have appreciated the importance—the indispensableness—of *thoroughness*; and those who have had occasion to test the qualifications of as many amanuenses as the majority of us have, will be prepared to believe that it is not possible to overestimate the importance of that quality in teaching. Probably every teacher who is achieving a fair measure of success, can say that the attainment of it has depended on thoroughness more than on even brilliancy of exposition. The conscientious teacher of the art—the man or woman who is, first, competent, and then persistent, in the determination that the student shall learn all that can be taught him in any school—is deserving of every encouragement that we can accord.

I need not refer to the traditions of this city for good, even brilliant, reportorial work. Wherever Tinsley has been, in the maturity and best use of his powers, there we know excellent work in our line has been done; and this judicial district doubtless witnessed the great bulk of his best work.

It would have been pleasant to be prepared, from foreknowledge of what was to be demanded, to do fuller justice, in a well worded response, to such an address of welcome as we have heard. Our business, however, is not talking in public; that assuredly is not my own business: and, hoping the will may be taken for the deed, I salute,



finally, our friends here, with the kindest sentiments and the best wishes of this association.

President Thornton then delivered the following address :

*Ladies and Gentlemen :*

It is a pleasure, as well as a duty devolving upon me, to call to order this 21st annual convention of the New York State Stenographers' Association. Fourteen years ago this month I had the honor of performing a similar duty at a meeting of the association in the city of New York. During the interval which has elapsed since that meeting occurred, our society has continued to fill its place among the stenographic associations of the world ; to hold its annual meetings and perform the other functions which are within its province. Although, like other organizations, it has had its times of adversity, yet I believe you will agree with me that we meet to-day under more favorable conditions than have attended any of our gatherings in recent years. There have been times when some of our members have felt that the work of our association was at an end, that the necessity for its existence was no longer apparent, and that having served its term of usefulness it might be permitted to pass quietly away and sleep the sleep which knows no waking. There were others who thought, even though no special matters existed calling for the action of the association, that it was not safe, having regard to the interests of the profession, to allow the society to expire; and, in addition to this consideration and that of the general utilitarianism of the association, that it could still show adequate reasons for its right to exist. They believed that the members of the profession were thrown too little together in the ordinary walks of life, that it was well that we should have a meeting at least once annually, where we would have an opportunity to look one another in the face, to talk things over one with another, and to profit by one another's work. That feeling, I believe, has grown upon the older members of the association, and the desire is present among them of renewing the old friendships which the years have but made stronger, and of forming new and pleasant acquaintances among the younger

members of the profession. These are matters which were thought of sufficient moment to justify strenuous efforts for the benefit of the association. That those efforts have brought forth good fruits, the present condition of the association will testify. To-day this organization is more needed than ever before. It is needed, not alone that we may grasp one another by the hand in friendly greeting, but for all the purposes of its original organization as set forth in our constitution. The material interests of the profession in the way of prospective legislation, call for a co-operation on the part of the members of the profession which can be attained in no other way so advantageously as through such an association as this. In this connection, it is only necessary to call attention to the fact that a general revision of the statutes relative to stenographers, is to be made in the ensuing legislature, and it will be one of the association's most important duties to take steps to see that no injurious or ill considered measures are adopted. Another point, the importance of which has been more keenly felt of late years, is the necessity of some means of ascertaining the qualifications of appointees to official positions. It is claimed that such appointments are now to be made under the civil service rules. Even if this is so, it is well for the association to consider whether some special provisions should not be adopted in reference to stenographic positions. It is hardly necessary to say that the methods heretofore employed by the civil service commission, in reference to filling minor positions would not be adapted to filling positions in court of records. These matters are but a few of those that should command the attention of this association, and in reference to which it ought to be able to render valuable aid.

In reviewing the work of our association since its organization twenty-one years ago, as shown in detail in our annual reports, there is much that is gratifying. The carefully prepared and thoughtful papers upon almost every subject of interest to the profession, the discussions that they have elicited, the action that has been taken in the formation of committees, and the reports upon various matters of moment, all give evidence of an intelligent effort on

the part of the members to promote the welfare of the profession. That we shall continue in the future to fulfill our mission as we have in the past, and with possibly still better results in certain directions, is a prediction which I believe may confidently be made.

The secretary proposed for active membership : Edw. N. Robbins and Henry G. Smith, supreme court reporters, New York city; John H. Wilson, court reporter, Syracuse ; Richard W. Ryan, law reporter, New York city; and J. B. North, law stenographer, Fort Edward.

The President proposed the name of Charles H. Bailey, supreme court reporter, Buffalo, for active membership.

Mr. George R. Bishop proposed for honorary membership : W. H. Gurney-Salter, parliamentary reporter, London; Theodore F. Shuey, congressional reporter, Washington; and Rev. Oliver Dyer, Warren, R. I.

The President referred these nominations to the committee on admission of new members, and announced as such committee Messrs. Little, Beach and Loeb.

Secretary-Treasurer Hill submitted the following financial exhibit and report for the year ending August 27th, 1896 :

### TREASURER'S REPORT,

#### RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand August 22, 1895.....	\$ 13.33	
Dues, 63 Active Members for 1895-6 ....	315.00	
The Phonographic Institute Co. for proceedings.....	30.00	
Walworth & Co. for proceedings.....	1.69	
Miscellaneous sales of proceedings.....	12.50	
		<hr/> \$372.52

1895.

#### EXPENDITURES.

Aug. 22, Telegram, &c.....	.75	
Sept. 17, St. Denis Hotel, for room 2 days	10.00	
Oct. 3, Letterheads, &c.....	9.35	
Oct. 31, A. T. Mallon & Co. for type-writing.....	4 50	
1896.		
Jan. 27, To Miss Ballantyne, Librarian...	15.00	
Feb. 4, Expressage on proceedings.....	1.65	
		<hr/> \$41.25

<i>Carried Forward,</i>	\$41.25
Mar. 4, Elmira Advertiser Association, for publishing 1000 proceedings and 150 constitutions.....	188.65
Apr. 17, Letterheads and invitations, &c.	12.50
Aug. 14, Cash returned to John G Bowman for proceedings of 1894.....	3.00
Aug. 27, Reporting 1895 proceedings ...	15.00
Aug. 27, Postage.....	11.00
Aug. 27, Letterheads to officers.....	.80
Aug. 27, Correspondence for the year....	28.55
	<hr/>
	\$300.75
Balance in Treasurer's hands.....	\$71.77
Balance in Librarian's hands.....	22.37
	<hr/>
Total balance cash on hand.....	\$94.14

### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

1. In compliance with the suggestion of the committee on place of meeting at the 20th annual convention, the secretary embodied in a general letter to the members of the association a request for their views in regard to changing the time of the annual meeting from August to mid-winter, it having been intimated that some of the older members were in favor of such a change. The responses were almost unanimously in favor of having the time remain as it is, although some expressed a desire to have the meeting one or two weeks earlier. The weight of opinion, however, would seem to be in favor of the present constitutional requirement, viz.: the fourth Thursday in August.

2. Having in view the needful revision of the list of honorary members, the secretary enclosed the following request with each invitation to this convention extended to them :

"We are revising our list of honorary members, as it has not been corrected for many years. Therefore, you will please acknowledge receipt of this invitation, giving your name and address in full. If so disposed and you have the opportunity, kindly embody in your letter something of an

encouraging nature, that it may be read at the Syracuse convention. Please give this prompt attention, as we want to have an accurate honorary list the coming year."

The responses have been prompt and profuse, and many magnificent letters have been received in compliance with above request.

3. During the past year four persons have been elected to active membership by the executive committee, viz.: Henry G. King, law stenographer, Glens Falls; Edward Shaughnessy, reporter State Senate, Rochester; John C. Uhlein, court reporter, Utica (now Watertown;) and Harry W. Wood, (assistant of Thomas W. Osborne, court reporter,) New York city. The speed test was applied to Mr. Wood, Mr. P. P. McLoughlin (examiner from the first judicial district) administering the medicine, which Mr. Wood took without a grimace.

4. It will be noted that the paid active membership of the association is steadily enlarging. Year before last the increase was twelve; the past year it has been thirteen. Six of the non-paying members have promised to remit their dues, but thus far have failed to do so.

5. While the association is growing numerically, it should be our positive determination not to sacrifice quality for quantity. The high professional standard of our State Shorthand Society must be maintained. There has been a disposition in the years past—which did not originate with the secretary—to admit certain applicants, who were not official stenographers or law reporters, without enforcing the test; and the secretary did upon a former occasion avail himself of this precedent with rather high-handed zeal, which was swiftly and severely censured by the conservative members—and justly, too. But when we make the declaration—which we are willing to prove by the books—that at the most and worst—not over 5 per cent. of our present paid membership is on the doubtful side, it will be seen how zealously, also, we have striven after perfection the past year. This leads to the suggestion that while some seem to be satisfied with a little if it be the best, and their motto is "Quality, not Quantity," the secretary's

desire is always for the best and lots of it, and his motto is "Quality *and* Quantity."

6. There is no good reason why this association should have less than 100 active members, under the manifestation of "a right spirit." "Society is formed for the protection of individuals." From time immemorial, men have banded together in classes and clans, and benefits have never failed to follow as a result when they were moved so to do by an earnest and right spirit. Organization is right, always. Its success or failure depends upon the *spirit* which moves it, as does the locomotive depend upon the fire (its spirit) for wonderful strength and speed. Professional organization is not only appropriate, but it should be regarded as a duty by each individual of a profession to join with an earnest and enterprising spirit such an alliance. The very act of union itself tends to promote the welfare of those comprising a society—whether of a State, social, or professional. This is an absolute law and first induced man to unite with man.

Spirit! The power within which prompts to action. We have need to be positive, not passive; constructive, not destructive; doers and "issers," not delayers and idlers.

7. All along the lines suggested, some of the members have rendered valuable assistance to the secretary, by sending in names of official and law stenographers, etc. In so far as they have done so, the association has been greatly benefited, for many of these official and other stenographers are simply waiting to be asked to gladly join the association. If more of us would manifest this interest, we should soon have an active membership exceeding one hundred official and law reporters.

The secretary the past year requested the members to send in a list of the official and law stenographers in their respective communities, for we all know that there are several hundred of such shorthand writers in this Empire State, and all we have to do is to get at them to have many of them to join our society. The responses were few, but scarcely a list was received from which we will not secure one or more members, thus proving the practical effective-

ness of such a canvass, if each member would do his duty in this regard.

8. The past year, as the year before, we have persistently advertised the association, through the medium of articles in the shorthand magazines, by a correspondence that has never known cessation, and in other ways.

9. The New York State Stenographers' Association has had much to do, in times past, in shaping legislation stenographic in character; in upholding the dignity of the profession; in presenting to the phonographic world, annually, through the published proceedings of its conventions, a volume of shorthand literature, so high in character, so varied in form, and so pure in tone and quality, as to have made the association famous wherever shorthand is written; and in maintaining a high standard of efficiency in the profession. And many are the members of this association whose names shall shine, while stenography endures, as stars of the first magnitude in the shorthand sky.

I like this association, and have labored for its interests in the past two years with energy and zeal, I think you will admit. And now I ring down the curtain; the scene to me is past. Thanks for your kindness, your courtesy, your consideration, your hearty co-operation, and most especially for your forbearance—your generous forbearance—when forbearance was the needed virtue.

KENDRICK C. HILL,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

New York, August 24th, 1896.

Mr. Bishop moved that the report be received and printed in the proceedings.

Mr. Rodgers moved as an amendment, that the treasurer's report proper be referred to a committee.

The motion, as amended, was carried, and the president named as such committee Messrs. Rodgers, Law and Martin.

MR. RODGERS—The secretary's report this year emphasizes the objects of the association, and upon this anniversary should specially recall to its founders what has been accomplished and wherein we have failed. I would not

venture to say anything at this point, were it not for a communication, from one who evidently believes he is just what the doctor prescribed, in *The Phonographic Magazine*, some months ago, wherein the self-styled "official" airs himself as follows :

"Our State Stenographers' Association is an asinine, etc.,—good for nothing except the glorification of a few fellows who read papers; but as a trade association, a long way behind the United Hod Carriers, and others of that ilk."

"What! Canst thou say all this and never blush?"

It is pretty well understood who this maligner is, and it is not the first time he has perpetrated pretended "wit larded with malice." He is or was an "official" of New York city, and had he been a discerning man he would long ago have discovered that this very association has, by its fidelity, saved him from the effects of considerable adverse legislation. Had this would-be humorist been of and with us, he would have found that underlying the presentation of "papers" was more serious matter; that much useful discussion affecting our welfare was had, which it was not politic to publish; that we have been united in a bond of fellowship which will remain indissoluble, and which really is of more value than all the "business" which appears upon the surface. Can he truthfully aver that the 2,000 pages we have published have been of no benefit but "glorification?" They have cost him no expenditure of time or money, even though they contain nothing he did not know before. His gratuitous slur, however, will scarcely dissolve an association which has now attained its majority, and it will not prevent many useful "papers" being presented in the future, nor will it divert it from pursuing paths of usefulness which its founders contemplated. Meanwhile our friend, according to Shakespeare :

"With the help of a surgeon might recover, and prove an ass."

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

"Time, the fleet messenger, o'ertakes us all."

Twenty-one years of sunshine and shadow have flitted by since the New York State Stenographers' Association was



formed, and to-day we meet to celebrate its "majority." We are glad to greet you all once more, and especially those of you who have prided yourselves in keeping the standard of proficiency and eligibility to membership high ; those of you who have always striven to be promoters of the greatest good to all its members ; those of you who have ever stood ready with willing hearts and open hands to extricate it from any threatened financial embarrassment ; and those of you who have so zealously guarded and maintained its constitution and by-laws at all times.

The librarian has great pleasure in reporting that this has been a veritable "Red Letter" year in the sale of proceedings. The advertised "surplus" of the years ago has been very productive of correspondence with many of the most energetic and intelligent stenographers in all parts of the United States, in Canada and in Europe ; she having been the recipient of upwards of a hundred letters. She has mailed several thousands of copies of proceedings ; to one party over 600 copies being sent.

The association has realized from the sale of

"Surplus".....	\$ 31.07
3 copies of 1895 proceedings.....	.75
Paid for postage for "Surplus," express charges, wrapping paper, &c.....	14.19
Postage on 1895 proceedings.....	12.96
Received from the secretary and treasurer for postage .....	15.00
Received from A. L. Woodward, Utica.....	2.85
Total amount received.....	49.67
Total amount expended.....	27.30
Leaving a balance in librarian's hands to date of..	22.37

Total number of proceedings for 1895 printed—1,000 copies.

From 500 to 600 copies still on hand and for sale.

Reserve numbers of proceedings for the years 1881, 1884, 1886, 1887, 1889, 1890 and 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895—fifty copies for each year.

Surplus entirely exhausted ; from which state of affairs the librarian's fears of insanity have subsided, and her

anxiety and peace of mind in regard to the same have been fully restored.

Additions to the library have been as follows :

Donated by Robert R. Law—Phonographic Reader, by Andrews and Boyle. The Art of Shorthand Writing, by T. C. Gould, published in 1829. Donated by M. Jeanette Ballantyne—Patteson's Pitmanic Phonography, by S. Louise Patteson, Cleveland, Ohio. Donated by Prof. Zeibig—Report of the 5th Shorthand Convention, Vienna, 1895. Donated by Rudolph Tombo—Rudolph Tombo's German Shorthand Text Book.

Mr. Tombo wrote that he would not be able to attend the annual meeting of the N. Y. S. S. A., as he was to celebrate his "silver wedding" at that time. The librarian replied that his excuse was a very good one, for he could attend the annual meeting any year, but as a matter of fact, he could not celebrate the event of his "silver wedding" but once, and that it was hoped he would be the recipient of large quantities of "free silver."

The librarian has placed in the library two copies of proceedings for 1893, 1894 and 1895, and has also forwarded copies of "Surplus" proceedings to the several active members who have desired them. She has also donated copies of "Surplus" to many students of shorthand in Rochester and vicinity.

The librarian would advise the association or executive committee to revise the list of honorary members, as five of the 1895 proceedings sent out were returned—thus putting the association to a needless expense.

Valuable assistance to the librarian in the sale of proceedings was rendered by the secretary and treasurer, besides many favors received at the hands of Miss Emens.

Asking indulgence for this extended statement, and wishing success and prosperity to the N. Y. S. S. A., and its valuable library, the librarian submits her annual report.

M. JEANETTE BALLANTYNE,

Librarian.

Rochester, N. Y., August 26, 1896.

The secretary read one hundred letters and a dozen telegrams from absent, active and honorary members and

others, including such shorthand writers as Thomas Allen Reed and W. H. Gurney-Salter, London; Sir Isaac Pitman, Bath; Dr. Julius W. Zeibig, Dresden; Alphonse Desjardins, Levis, Canada; D. N. Shinghaw, Simla Hills, India; David Wolfe Brown, Theodore F. Shuey, Edward D. Easton, R. F. Cromelin and Fred VanDyne, Washington; Edwin R. Gardiner, Providence; Frank H. Burt, Boston; Frederick W. Nichtel, Trenton; Nelson R. Butcher, H. J. Emerson, N. Stewart Dunlop, Henry T. Smith, and Edward E. Horton, Toronto; Jerome B. Howard, Cincinnati; Jane A. Gage, Saginaw; W. A. Woodward, Denver; Isaac S. Dement, Chas. H. Rush, Irvin E. Rockwell, and J. L. Bennett, Chicago; Mrs. S. Louise Patteson, Cleveland; Francis H. Hemperley, and John G. Bowman, Philadelphia; ex-President Charles F. King, Glens Falls; John Collins, Dayton; ex-President Wm. H. Slocum, Buffalo; H. L. Andrews, Pittsburgh; J. D. Strachen, Brazil, Ind.; Bates Torrey, Stephen O'Meara, and Arthur T. Lovell, Boston; H. W. Thorne, Johnstown; Herschel Whitaker, Detroit; Dr. Rudolf Tombo, Peter P. McLoughlin, Leopold Woodle, Arthur B. Cook, Wm. L. Mason, J. H. Hotson, Mrs. Eliza B. Burnz, Rollin B. Frederick, Chandler Sexton, J. Harry Thompson, W. N. Jones, Richard W. Ryan, D. C. McMillan, W. L. Ormsby, Jr., Henry G. Smith, New York; Norman P. Heffley, and C. S. Findlay, Brooklyn; A. A. Campbell, London, Ont.; W. Newton Bird, Floral Park; Edward Shaughnessy, Miss Etta A. Emens, Miss Cora M. Emens, Rochester; Frank D. Blue, Terre Haute; Willis H. Porter, Watertown; A. D. Mabie, M. D., Peekskill; Geo. A. Woodward, Buffalo; J. B. North, Fort Edward; W. G. Chaffee, and Miss Eva M. Wolf, Oswego; Miss Lillian E. Agan, Penn Yan; C. J. Wilkinson, Malone; Oliver Dyer, Warren, R. I.; Leon L. Wheeler, Plattsburgh; Robert W. Mitchell, Portland, Ore.; F. H. Harris, W. S. Garber, and S. H. East, Indianapolis; Buford Duke, Nashville; Major A. W. Lowe, Mexico; Miss S. M. Blount, Batavia; Anna M. Child, Paterson; A. J. Smith, Manchester, N. H.; A. L. Dickinson, Binghamton; Philander Deming, Albany; Ivan W. Goodner, Pierre, S. D.; Miss Frances Bissell, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Frank E. Nevins, C. E. Hutchings, St.

Louis; Henry C. Demming, Harrisburg; Henry F. Walch, Grand Rapids; Martha Douglass Holyoke, Providence, etc., etc.

Mr Rodgers moved that the secretary be instructed to send a fraternal telegram to the Ohio Stenographers' Association, in session at "The Garlock," Cleveland, which was carried. The following message was sent :

"The New York State Stenographers' Association, now in twenty-first annual session at Syracuse, sends cordial greetings to the Ohio Stenographers' Association, also in annual session;" and the subjoined response was received :

"The Ohio Stenographers' Association cordially reciprocates greetings from New York State Stenographers' Association "

The convention here adjourned until 2.30 p. m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention re-convened at 2:30 p. m., when the president announced that the reading and discussion of papers was in order. Mr. Theodore C. Rose read the following paper :

##### Bits of Old Times.

BY THEO. C. ROSE, OF ELMIRA, N. Y.

At the urgent request of our indefatigable secretary that I should write something, I have endeavored in a brief way to recall a few remembrances of the old times, when court reporters were still looked upon as curiosities, and when the office stenographer was comparatively unknown. There are many members of our association who have been in the reporting business a much longer time than I have been, and whose recollection of the art, and the early efforts to make its usefulness known to the business world, extends much further into the past than my own does, and I can only hope that my effort will serve to arouse these gentlemen to a narration of their experiences, to the end that the history of the growth of our art since it began to be recognized generally as a useful one, as illustrated by individual experience, may be permanently secured by being placed upon the pages of our published proceedings. History is made

more entertaining, and gives the reader a better knowledge of the times and the matters referred to, by the relation of personal recollections, than in any other way. All of our older members must remember incidents connected with former days, that would be particularly interesting to us all, and especially to our younger members, and I trust none of them will be backward in favoring us with those recollections. I shall simply ramble around a little among the first years of my experience without any semblance to system or order of events, and leave to more ready pens the precise arrangement of the subject matter.

In 1868, when first I became acquainted with the stenographic art, the last echoes of the war time, which since 1865 had been growing fainter and fainter, had at last ceased, and the men who had composed that grand army, had settled down into the peaceful pursuits of civil life; some into their old places of employment, and others into new fields of labor which were being opened upon all sides. A new life was infused into the nation, and a new impetus given to all kinds of business. New enterprises were rapidly developing in all directions, and the people began to demand better facilities and faster methods than in the old time before the war. Railroads were being constructed in every direction, and machinery began with renewed and multiplied force its great task of assisting the labors of mankind. Very soon the railroad official, the manufacturer, and the business manager found the old office methods inadequate for the transaction of this increasing business, and in a few years the office stenographer came to be in demand. Our courts too, soon came to see the need of a more rapid dispatch of business, and hence the advent of that infallible person, the court reporter. In those days everything pertaining to the art seemed to be in a kind of experimental stage. The employment of the court reporter came first, and I recall that in 1869 Mr. C. G. Tinsley, then a reporter of this city, for the purpose of making our usefulness better known, procured a long list of letters from the judges of the state, certifying to the great saving of time and expense effected by the employment of stenographers in our courts. Such action would seem a little strange in these days, but

that was the method of procedure in those days, to satisfy legislators that the court reporter was useful as well as ornamental, and entitled to fair compensation. While our business houses, corporations, and government officers were looking for relief from the old methods of office management, they were slow to see the benefits to be derived from the employment of stenographers, and it was as late, I think, as 1880 before their employment became general, and they had come to be looked upon as an indispensable auxiliary to the office. In the early 70's an office with a stenographer was rarely found ; to-day an office without a stenographer is still more difficult to find.

In 1860, Mr. Edward F. Underhill, for whose untiring efforts our profession should always be grateful, procured the enactment of a law, authorizing the employment of stenographers in some of our courts, but it was not until some years after that laws were enacted that were general in their scope, and these were not at all satisfactory. In 1871 was passed the first law that gave anywhere near a just compensation for the services performed; and that law has by subsequent amendments been made still more just and equitable. Other laws, as you all know, have been placed upon the statute books of our state since that time, greatly enlarging the stenographic field.

In those days, few if any schools existed where shorthand was taught, and a knowledge of the art was acquired by self-instruction ; in the office of a practising stenographer ; or from some teacher traveling through the country organizing classes. In 1865 or 1866, I think, Professor John B. Holmes taught in this city one of the most successful classes that any teacher can boast of. If I remember correctly, in that class were such promising youths as Messrs. Rodgers, Wyckoff, Tinsley, Hitchcock, Weaver, Fritcher, Davis, Walch, Martin, Schwartz, Goodale, and others, all of whom became distinguished practitioners. Soon after 1870, Mr. Wyckoff and I opened a Phonographic Institute in Ithaca. One object we had in the beginning was to secure copyists, but it soon grew beyond our expectations. With the coming of the typewriter came the opening of a wide field of work for bright young ladies and gentlemen, and in

a few years the demand for stenographers created a demand for phonographic schools, and they have rapidly increased until at the present time a city is not considered up to date unless it has one or two within its borders.

Then there were very few phonographic journals when I commenced the study of phonography, and the "Ever-circulator" was adopted as a means of communication and of information among students. Listen to the words of our friend Underhill whose description is better than any I can give you: "We resorted to what was then known as 'ever-circulators' as a means of mutual instruction. To illustrate: A wrote a brilliant effusion in phonography and sent it to B; B read the paper, added the light of his genius in an article, and enclosed both to C; he, after being edified and enlightened, put the lucubration in the envelope and sent them on their way rejoicing to D. And so it went on to E, F, G, H, I, J, and K, and at last L woke up one morning to find eleven brilliant lights concentrated on him as the focal point. He read; he pondered; he inwardly digested; and more or less he outwardly profited; and then, to get revenge on the eleven, he put in the calcium light of his own thought and unloaded the whole cargo of brilliancy on A, who swopped off a new article for an old one, and returned it to B, who did the same and sent it to C, who in turn inflicted it on D; and so it went the rounds thereafter — a twelve-barrelled stenographic revolver with each chamber loaded to the muzzle with fresh ammunition to be fired at each contributor in turn."

Among the pleasant incidents connected with my learning of shorthand was the receiving from time to time this same "ever-circulator" with its criticisms, and its beautiful specimens of phonography, for you must know we always did our best, and were thankful to have our attention called to our errors.

Even in the early 70's, court reporters were scarce, and were often called upon to go from one district to another to help out in times of need. They were looked upon somewhat in the light of magicians, and a part of their duties, as my gray-haired brethren will recall, was to write the names and addresses of inquisitive jurymen and by-standers in the

cabalistic characters of the art. In the first years of my practice I went very frequently into all the counties of the eighth district, and occasionally into the fifth, and even as far away as St. Lawrence county in the fourth district. In those days I believe that brother Little was still wearing a university gown and our worthy president had but a few years before changed his knickerbockers for long trousers. I used always to keep a satchel packed ready to respond at a moment's notice. A very funny thing occurred to me once, arising from that custom, and my habit of being prompt when called upon; but as it always affords my friend Little so much satisfaction to relate it, I could not at this time deprive him of the pleasure, but will leave it for him to entertain you with the story, if you wish it.

Soon after 1870 a correspondence was begun by the court stenographers of the state in relation to the formation of an association in which all could join and work for the common good. It was the general opinion that by united effort greater good could be accomplished than in any other way. This correspondence finally resulted in a meeting at Syracuse in 1876 at which eight stenographers attended, discussions were had on various subjects pertaining to the profession, officers were chosen, and the preliminary steps toward the formation of an association completed. Perhaps I ought, for the benefit of our younger members, to especially mention those eight that met at that time. There was the veteran Osgoodby, a man of wide experience in the reportorial art, even at that time, and who was looked upon by us younger men much the same as Napoleon was looked upon by the soldiers of France. Mr. Osgoodby, as you already know, embodied the results of his wide experience and practice in a modest little volume entitled "Phonetic Shorthand." There was Rodgers, the Trojan, who afterwards became an eminent writer upon the laws governing the scribes in the various states, and also an eminent authority on "Occupation Neuroses." Mr. Rodgers has never published a system of shorthand! Then came Wyckoff the enthusiast, who could even then look into the future and see every man his own stenographer and the type-writer in every home. Payne, whose field of labor was



not only in the courts, but among the law-makers, and whose suggestions were therefore particularly valuable. Tinsley, the ready all-around reporter of this city ; Woodward, of Utica, a writer of beautiful phonography ; genial Fred Morgan, who early in the history of the association characterized himself as the youngest blunderer of us all ; and your humble servant who now addresses you.

The year was also propitious. It was eminently fitting that an association such as ours, that was to take a place among the leading associations of the land, should be organized in the rooth year of American independence, and when the great Centennial Exhibition was furnishing new inspiration and encouragement to still greater efforts in the enlargement and development of the resources of our country.

Thus was the project started, and thus was the association inaugurated. The next year we met at Ithaca, and the names of a number of stenographers, who were to become prominent workers, were added to our list. There were McEwen, Little, Slocum, Thornton, Briggs, Demming, and a number of others. It should also be noted that women began to come to the front, and to assert their rights as early as our second meeting. Mrs. Helen I. Palmer, of Norwich, was the first woman to become a member of the association. There was a considerable outside discussion as to the advisability of admitting women, but the question was finally decided in their favor. I know it would be very gratifying to the ladies present to know the names of the gentlemen who opposed their admission, but I shall not humor them. They have long since repented and are therefore entitled to protection.

Our third meeting was held in Rochester, and our list of members was increased by the addition of the names of Ruso, Griffith, Earle, Beach and others. That meeting was a very interesting one, we became better acquainted with each other, and our success as an association was assured. Besides our active members, there were present at that meeting Mr. Edward F. Underhill, one of the oldest stenographers of the country, and whom you all know by reputation, who told us of his early experiences as a reporter;

Mr. Demming of Harrisburg, a leading stenographer of the Keystone State, who gave us a word of encouragement; and our own brother Bishop, who became one of our most active members, and who, as well as our president, afterward gave to the world a new system of shorthand.

Thus year by year our membership has increased, until most of the leading stenographers of the state have become members. It would afford me pleasure to mention them all by name, but I must leave that to those who shall write the history of the association. That is not my purpose now. At our fourth meeting our earnest worker and librarian, Miss Ballantyne, joined us, the second one of a long list of able and intelligent women who have been active workers in the association.

It used to be thought that one stenographer could not read another's notes, and we used to have some trouble in getting out copy. We generally dictated to three or four copyists by dividing the case in hand into parts, and dictated a question and answer to one, and then another question and answer to another, and so on around the circle. When we had orders for two copies, the sheets were handed over to another set of copyists; and I remember with what satisfaction we learned to make an additional copy with a letter press. At one of our early meetings brother Rodgers gave us many good points in an admirable paper on duplication of copies, even as to how to make an ink that would give us four or five copies. Afterwards we had the "gum-pan" and the needle-pen, and various devices until we reached the mimeograph, and the other duplicators of the present day.

Along in the early 70's it was announced that a new and great invention, in the way of a typewriter, was about to be put upon the market, and I remember with what suspicion Mr. Wyckoff and I, who were then associated together in business, looked upon the thing, and the caution we exercised in the purchase of one. The first one we received was taken to Mr. Wyckoff's library and there examined with the greatest of secrecy. Our first experiments were made there, and I recall to mind how swiftly our apprehensions vanished as we became familiar with its workings.

We soon thereafter became agents, and began the work of putting the machine upon the market; and in a room adjoining the Phonographic Institute in Ithaca, where are stored our court reports of twelve busy years, may still be found two huge chests in which we carried the old number one machine, table and all, and exhibited it around through the counties of our judicial district. \$125 was the price of a machine in those days, and one day an old farmer called at the office of the *Ithaca Journal*, in which paper we had an advertisement, and said to the editor, "Is it true that they have got a machine to write with?" "Yes," replied the editor, "that is a fact." "Well," said Mr. Farmer, "I don't believe they'll sell many of them, for I see they ask a dollar and twenty-five cents for them, and you can buy a first-class pen for two cents."

Of course the typewriter and its possibilities was a prominent subject of discussion at our meetings, and some of our members were a long time skeptical, and slow in appreciating its advantages. Brother Rodgers, I believe, was the last to be converted to its use. If questioned, I have no doubt he will declare that he purchased the very first machine that was put upon the market. We have several members who bought the first machine; but so far as I have kept a list of them, they were the very last ones to accept its advantages. Then other machines were placed upon the market, and their merits were discussed at our gatherings. At our meeting at Watkins, I remember a discussion took place as to whether the single or double-case type machine was preferable; and as late as our eighth or tenth meeting, brother Little was still boldly and unblushingly championing the Caligraph; and according to Professor Dan Brown, our Chicago stenographic friends were getting out their copy by each one dictating to four typewriter operators. brother Slocum also came down upon us with a new invention that was to knock the spots off from everything in the market, and even Canada sent the best she could produce in the way of a writing machine for our consideration. But we have made great progress since those days. Our Rochester friend has wandered off into other enterprises; brother Slocum's machine has gone the way of hundreds of

others ; our typewriter operators have become so expert that one is sufficient for an average stenographer's dictation ; and the typewriter trust still charges us \$100 for a machine.

But enough of my scribbling. At one of our meetings long ago, brother Bishop read a short paper of a reminiscent character, entitled "Stenography and Stenographers," which he promised at some time to enlarge upon and present for publication in our proceedings. I hope that this brief paper may serve as a reminder to him, and that we may soon be favored with his long anticipated production.

MR. RODGERS—MR. President : A neighbor at my elbow, having noted my withered frame and wrinkled mien, concludes that I must be an "old timer," and therefore able to supplement what has been so well said by brother Rose, who, I may parenthetically add, ante-dates me as to age nearly a year, and was therefore competent by such lengthened period to go back to ancient history in his remarks.

*" Age sits with decent grace upon his visage,  
And worthily becomes his silver locks :  
He bears the marks of many years well spent."*

However, I will not allow so great a difference in our advent upon our respective scenes of action to interfere in adding a word.

As I review the early days, I am not regretful that it befell me to be one of the "old timers" or pioneers of the profession in this state. While it did not then seem so funny to travel by stage to points even beyond the W. U. telegraph, and to sleep in one's overcoat in a cold room, which was certain to be near enough to the bar-room to rob one of sleep at both ends of the attempt, I am now, in my old age, the better able to appreciate the comfort of leaving home the opening day of court, of traveling by Wagner "through without change" or delay, of having the choice of steam heated rooms, with running water, electric lights, and a push button, although I draw the line at the alarm gong in the drummer's room next door, which would awaken a mummy, no matter how long it had been pickled and spiced. In those days no previous provision was made for the reporter's accommodation, and "any old thing" from a thirteen inch marble-top center table borrowed from the sheriff's

family, to a rickety, machine-painted washstand, presumably loaned by a prisoner, was improvised for the term, and when no portable article was convenient we were invited to sit beside the judge, from which elevation we could look at the girls, and if desired advise the judge on knotty p'int of law. These, too, were not the days of electric lighting, and in many counties a tin candlestick and a spluttering "taller-dip" made the darkness apparent. Then came "camphene," followed by kerosene, and finally gas, which even now is almost as degenerate as that of many of the lawyers.

In the early days we occasionally heard of some illy-advised, as we thought, person having "taken up" stenography. A pang always penetrated my frame when such information reached me, for I at once conjured up a competitor who would be appointed to my official shoes as soon as he acquired a "pull." But as time progressed it seemed that the major percentage were only fooling, having found out that it was not so "awful easy" to acquire the art, and that its demand was quite circumscribed; and I also noted that the more the art became known to the public the better were the demands upon really competent people. So gradually my fears calmed, until now a paper wad carelessly ejected from one's office window in any town of a thousand inhabitants, can scarcely fail, before reaching earth, to tap an alleged "stenographer and typewriter." And yet to-day it is as difficult as it was ten years ago, despite the "business colleges," to equip a discriminating office with first-class operators in both lines. The other day an applicant "heard we wanted someone." I asked her if she had any experience in law work. She said "Yes, she had been in a law office a day and a half, but she didn't know as she would be up on quite all the terms." Another frankly admitted that she had no experience in legal terminology, but indignantly added that it "didn't make any difference, for she was smart and knew she could pick it up in no time."

In those early days our numbers were so limited that we kept more in touch with each other; each was posted as to the other's doings in the field of labor. Accessions to the ranks have tended to more selfishness. We are more

wrapped up in our own pursuits; our territory of labor is less extended, but the amount of work to be done has not lessened, and I am happy to add that so far the influx of talent has not enervated our salaries. Prejudice against the system of reporting by stenography has melted away; lawyers are learning to conduct cases with some regard to the making up of an harmonious record. Judges are more considerate, recognizing that the stenographer is human, and those outrageous "night sessions" are substantially a thing of the past, but we had to see several judges killed by them before the reformation dawned, until now even the "new brooms" will not sweep the official deck after 6 p. m. When I think of the scores of terms whose sessions were from 8:30, or 9 a. m., anyway, to 11 p. m., with an hour at noon and night, I marvel that I am alive to recall the memory of them. And then, as if we had not had sufficient fun from writing notes all day, to have an attorney chase us on the highway to "just write out" about fifty pages, or read over half a dozen witnesses' testimony before breakfast as an appetizer for the coming day's work, was not of infrequent occurrence. Even now, lawyers who are credited with ordinary sense, rush up just as we are sliding into our hats, with a request to let them have the day's proceedings so they can look them over during the evening, as they are "going to have a consultation." If they are New Yorkers, however, they palliate the enormity of the offence by "this is 'rush rates,' of course." I have found it policy to treat this request with becoming seriousness, and then forget the notes in the court room desk.

Recently, after taking nearly 200 pages of symptomatological and etiological conundrums propounded to a medical expert, the referee remarked that he always felt "limp" after listening to testimony all day. I asked him if he imagined the stenographer ever felt that way after filtering every word of it through his brain, and hunting up the appropriate characters, and then sifting it out through his fingers' ends upon paper, weighted with the sense of responsibility attached to having it come out all right later on. He declared, well, no, he hadn't thought of that, and that possibly there might be something in it after all, but

then he supposed that it must be mostly mechanical. Mechanical! I bade him good day, with inward thanks for even so much concession.

By the way, haven't you noticed how much easier, apparently, shorthand is to acquire nowadays than when we took it up? Why is it? It is now to be mastered, I am told, in six easy lessons, hypodermically, probably, and yet after a quarter of a century of pretty continuous pegging at the art, I often have a "gone feeling" when I have a youth, who has been able less than one-tenth of a century to talk, start in and tell what he "seen," and at the conclusion I have "that tired feeling," heartily wishing I had never enlisted, and hoping that the case may never be ordered. Which has improved? the systems, or the people studying them, or both?

The invention of the typewriter was the greatest impetus shorthand ever received. Harmonizing at once, the beautiful coalescence has progressed ever since, until now there are many machine operators who can write more words in a given time than one-quarter of the stenographers can write with the pen. I am bound to admit, despite brother Rose's presumption, that I was not the purchaser of the first marketable machine, and I am glad that I was not, for that machine was a "hard lot." I waited—and got a good thing. Next to buying the first machine, I had many cases executed, in more sense than one, on the first one that came to my town, the old No. 1, and you all will recall the beautiful, soldier-like capitals with which it was equipped. That same machine, under the manipulation of Congressman Frank S. Black, yesterday nominated for governor of this State,\* transcribed many hundred pages of notes for me—and a very excellent operator Mr. Black was, too.

One needs to be a recorder of judicial proceedings but a brief time to acquire a great store of "experiences," the bulk of which, however, lose their charm in the narration when stripped of the environments thereof. In the short period, as it seems when retrospected, devoted to attending hundreds of terms of court, reams of paper would be needed to note the ludicrous incidents which have occurred, and I

\* Subsequently elected Governor.

shall not attempt any "court scenes." If Mr. Osgoodby could be induced to edit and publish the best of a private collection of several thousand which he had up to at least a few years ago, aided perhaps by voluntary contributions from the profession, I am sure a most entertaining and readable volume would be the result. In any event, I trust some of our members who are richly stored with such reminiscences will contribute a paper next year embracing court room experiences.

MR. OSGOODBY—During many years, the collection of anecdotes, legal and stenographical, mentioned by Mr. Rodgers, has been growing, until its proportions have become almost alarming. It has been my intention at some time to arrange these for publication. Latterly, my reporting and publishing business has so completely occupied my time, that this has been impossible, and the work has been indefinitely postponed, though I still hope that I may sometime be able to resume it. Just now, the thought comes to me, that a most interesting and valuable feature may be added to our proceedings, if each member will come prepared to relate some of the amusing things that shall have occurred in his work. I am sure that an hour or two of each session, spent in this way, will be a delight to us all; and I suggest that this be begun at our next annual meeting.

I am sure we should all like to have Mr. Little tell that story now, alluded to by Mr. Rose.

MR. LITTLE—What was the story, Rose?

MR. OSGOODBY—I think the story ought to be told. If neither Mr. Little nor Mr. Rose will volunteer, I suppose I ought to tell it. Evidently, neither of them will venture, and as many of our friends seem to be curious to hear it, I will see if I can do it justice. If I make any mistakes, they can be corrected.

Our old friend Mr. Wyckoff and Mr. Rose were reporting in the sixth district, with their headquarters at Ithaca, and it seems that there was another William Wyckoff living there, who was a barber, and letters and telegrams sometimes got a little mixed there. A little the worst mixture, occurred at about the time the facts of this story began to



develop themselves. Mr. Little, Mr. Duffield, and I were reporting in the seventh district, with our office at Rochester. Of course, we wanted all the work we could get, and we flattered ourselves that we had the good will of all the lawyers of the district, and supposed that we should get all the outside jobs they had, as a matter of course. But it was left to Mr. Rose to take us down a peg. We were all busy at work in our office, one day, when the door opened, and in stepped Rose, carpet-bag in hand. Of course, we were overjoyed to see him. Work was dropped, and we seated ourselves around him, and had a real good, old-fashioned visit. At last, in an evil moment, Little asked him where he was going. "Oh," said he, in a nonchalant manner, "I've got a little job at Lyons;" and he added, wickedly, "It'll last three or four days!" Now Lyons was in our district, and less than forty miles from Rochester, and on the instant the temperature seemed to go down to somewhere near the freezing point with all three of us, while Rose sat before us beaming his best-natured beam upon us. We made a desperate effort to appear unconcerned, but it wouldn't do; we couldn't help wondering what lawyer at Lyons could have sent to far-off Ithaca for a stenographer, when we could have got there in an hour's ride. Rose saw through it all, for he has good eyesight, as you all know, and after enjoying our discomfort for a few minutes, he gaily bade us good-bye, and started for his train.

I don't know how the truth leaked out, but it wasn't long before we thought we had the hugest joke imaginable on Rose, though he didn't give us a chance to laugh over it with him, for many a long day.

And this is how it was: Rose arrived at Lyons, in due time, registered at Congress Hall, got the best room in the house, washed, combed, and brushed himself up to fits, and sallied out to find the lawyer who had sent for him. By judicious inquiry, he found that the man whose name was attached to the telegram had an office opposite the public square, and with light heart and sharpened pencil he wended his way thither. But he didn't just fancy the looks of the place—it was a barber-shop. He entered, and looked around.

"Do you know where Mr. G——'s office is?" he asked, showing the telegram.

"Why, yes," said the barber; "this is the place. Did you come up to work?"

"Y-e-s," said Rose, in a bewildered way.

"It's all right, then," said the barber. "You can take that chair over by that window. N-e-x-t!"

Rose didn't get any mileage out of that job, so far as I ever learned.

MR. LITTLE (in his well-known caustic undertone)—And Rose went home the other way!

The following paper was read:

### **Shorthand and its Limitations.**

BY THOMAS ALLEN REED, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

Like a great many other old phonographers (we do not generally call them stenographers, in England) I have for many years assisted in proclaiming from the housetop the advantages and excellencies of shorthand in general and the Pitmanic system in particular. I suppose there is hardly any aspect of the subject on which, during the last half century and more, I have not spoken and written. One unfortunate result of this is that in endeavoring to respond to the secretary's kind invitation to send a contribution to be read at your forthcoming annual meeting, I find myself in the embarrassing situation of being absolutely unable to select a topic on which I have not already made a deliverance. Of course, I do not flatter myself that what I have written has been extensively read on your side of the Atlantic. I could, in all probability, repeat myself without running much risk of detection, but this would not be respectful to my fellow members of the association, nor would it be agreeable to myself. There is only one way that occurs to me out of this dilemma, but I think it ought to be an effective way. Indeed, I regard it as a happy inspiration, and I intend to act upon it. Whether it succeeds or not.

"Let time and chance determine."

As I have said, I have taken my part in the general glorification of our art in which we naturally indulge when a

reasonable opportunity is presented to us. I have expounded to all sorts and conditions of men what shorthand can do for the individual and the race. I have demonstrated, at least to my own satisfaction, the mental discipline which it affords alike in the process of its acquisition and in its application when acquired. I have had something to say to the student, to the man of business, to the lawyer, to the doctor, to the journalist and to many other classes of the community, about the benefits to be derived in their several spheres of labour from the practice of shorthand. I am not sure that in my early days I did not, with the confidence, the enthusiasm and the intrepidity of youth, endeavour to establish the proposition that not only had a new era dawned upon mankind when phonography was born, but that the only path of safety and salvation in this troubled life of ours was to be found in the adoption of the eternal principles of philosophy, geometry, philology, phonology, and the rest, underlying the new system. I feel that after all these years I have pretty well exhausted my powers in this direction, and that it is now time for me to say something not in furtherance of the apotheosis of phonography, but in exposition of its limitations. I propose, therefore, instead of describing what shorthand can do and does do, to dwell briefly on what it cannot do and does not do, and, so far as I can see, never will do. Nor is this altogether a needless task. There is a good deal of misapprehension still existing as to the proper functions of shorthand, and the object of this paper will be to help to remove it. I am sure it does not exist amongst those who are good enough to listen to what I have to say, but it is to be found in other quarters which, it may be, my words will reach.

I am afraid that many a young shorthand student is from the commencement the victim of a fond illusion as to what he is destined to achieve by the aid of his new accomplishment. Nor is it surprising that he should be so. I have seen remarkable advertisements, both on your side of the Atlantic and on ours, setting forth in glowing colours the possibilities opened up to the shorthand practitioner, displaying to the view a vista of prosperity, wealth, and distinction.

which could hardly fail to captivate and enthrall the ingenuous and confiding youth to whom it has been presented. A few months' or even a few weeks' application is all that is needed; the only capital, a familiarity (easily acquired) with the shorthand symbols and a little dexterity in their use; the only stock-in-trade a note book and a fountain pen. Thus equipped, the world is at his feet. Employers on all hands will be positively clamorous for his services; appointments as official reporter or State stenographer will be "thick as leaves in Vallambrosa." High salaries, big fees, crowds of clients; what can be more charming? A pleasant active occupation for a few years, a goodly pile of dollars or sovereigns, early retirement to a country estate, and thereafter a life of blissful serenity and repose. It is a pity to cloud so fair a prospect, but in the interests of truth and soberness it must be done. It is quite true that there is a wide field for the employment of shorthand as a means of livelihood, but the laborers are many, and there is the same struggle for existence, the same survival of the fittest, as in other departments of life. Shorthand is no talisman, no open sesame of magician's wand, or magic key to unlock all gates and remove every barrier; shorthand means work, and, if any conspicuous success is to be achieved, hard work—not unpleasant work as a whole, work that is often interesting, and sometimes exciting, but, I repeat emphatically, hard work.

Another misconception with regard to the powers of shorthand is, that it is equal to the reproduction of speech at any rate possible to the human voice. I do not believe it. I do not think that any record-breaker has ever written for five minutes together as many words as a well trained voice could utter in the same time—written, I mean, with a degree of clearness and legibility at all corresponding to the distinctness of the vocal utterance. With regard to some of the facsimiles I have seen of record passages, both American and English, I entirely deny their title to the designation of shorthand writing. Unless writing is reasonably legible, not only to the writer himself but to other experts employing the same system, it is not shorthand in the true sense of the term. But even allowing the note-

taker to write in such a way as that he alone can decipher the characters, I think I am right in stating that, whatever his manual dexterity, he cannot in point of speed equal the terrible powers of the vocal organs. Even when he approaches that speed it is only by the constant use of short cuts, disregarding altogether many of the sounds uttered by the speaker, retaining only such as will enable him to supply the others when he comes to read or transcribe. The time may come when the writer will be able to defy the swiftest tongue, writing, perhaps, every vowel and every consonant of every word, but we are not, it seems to me, within measurable distance of such a consummation. It is not to be done by any system that I have ever seen or heard of; and the only way in which I can conceive of its being accomplished is by the realization of an old dream of mine—the use of a pen or pencil that will write in different colours, changing from one to the other with the least possible loss of time. This, if practicable, would add so enormously to the available stenographic material that it might enable the writer to accomplish feats of speed hitherto unattainable. I have once or twice made the suggestion, and I throw it out again as an inducement to some young Edison to try his hand at providing a mechanism that will supply us with this desideratum. Meanwhile, we must be content if in the race between the fingers and the tongue the fingers come in “a good second.”

There is another statement often made with regard to the capabilities of phonography, which requires some little correction or modification. It is often said that the system is a valuable aid in the study of foreign languages, since it enables the student to record the pronunciation of the words, which is not always to be gathered from the spelling. This is true to a certain extent, but only to a certain extent. In the first place, there are sounds in foreign languages not known to English, and for these special signs have to be provided. It is not only necessary to learn these signs, but to appreciate and to be able to reproduce the sounds which they indicate, and this can only be acquired by early instruction, without which the shorthand symbols are of little use. The few

nasal and guttural sounds of French, German, etc., have been provided for in phonography, and if the student is familiar with these, and can write and pronounce them correctly, he has at his command a useful method of indicating the pronunciation of the words in which they occur. I say, a useful method, but not an absolutely exact method. For there are shades of sound, *nuances*, as the French call them, which are very palpable to a cultivated ear, but for which phonography, as practically used, takes no cognizance. The French word "*dire*," for example, would be written with the same shorthand outline as the English "dear," but there is a decided difference in their mode of pronunciation. The French *ê* is closer than the English, and "*dire*" is a true monosyllable, while "dear" is generally pronounced by Englishmen as a dissyllable. Again, the word "robe," which is both English and French, would be written by the phonographer in the same way in the two languages; but the Frenchman gives a broader sound to the *ò* than the Englishman, approximating it to *au*. The word "man," or "*mann*" in German would be written in phonography precisely like the word "man" in English, but there is a clear distinction between the English and the German method of pronouncing the short *ä*, the latter being broader than the former. These and similar distinctions which abound on all hands cannot well be preserved in shorthand and must be learned *ab extra*. It is the same with dialectical peculiarities of pronunciation. Many of them can be expressed with sufficient clearness, as when a Yorkshireman pronounces fool, *fooil*, but there are others which can hardly be capable of graphic representation without the use of a greatly enlarged and impracticable alphabet. There are also many spoken sounds not included in English other than the few nasals and gutturals to which I have alluded. Take as a specimen the breathed and unbreathed consonants of the Sanskrit and other Eastern languages, and the two *t*'s and *d*'s, the one dental and the other palatal, each having its breathed and unbreathed form; so that there are, as we should say, four *t*'s and four *d*'s requiring distinction. I say nothing of the African "clicks" which some may consider as belonging to uncivilized speech.

Apart from this, there are many spoken sounds with which the Englishman's ear is unfamiliar, and which, even if signs were provided for them, he would be unable to pronounce without special instruction. It must therefore be distinctly understood that when it is claimed for phonography that it can express the sounds of foreign languages as well as English, and thus enable the student to acquire a correct pronunciation of any and every tongue so represented, it is necessary to modify the claim in the way I have mentioned. It is a valuable aid in this direction, but it does not *of itself* suffice to convey to the learner an exact representation of the words as they are uttered by the native.

This allusion to foreign languages reminds me of an incident that occurred in the very early days of phonography. When I was publicly demonstrating in the best way I could the capabilities of phonography in helping the student to fix the pronunciation of words, a gentleman slowly dictated to me a sentence or two in Welsh, an unknown tongue to me. I took them down and reproduced them to his satisfaction, the only extra or foreign sounds requiring representation being the “//” and the guttural, with which I was familiar. “Quite right, sir,” said the gentleman who was administering the test, “the pronunciation is correct ; now will you kindly tell me the meaning of the words ?” He was surprised at the burst of laughter that greeted his request, having been under the impression that the new system claimed to give its students the power not only of pronunciation but of interpretation. I suppose it is not necessary to inform the members of the association whom I have the honor to address that this is a development of shorthand that even now, after the lapse of half a century, has not been accomplished.

It is sometimes said that by means of phonography, speech can be taken down in a foreign language unknown to the writer and read over by him just as if, instead of being a phonographer, he were a phonograph. One of your own journals not long since was kind enough to attribute to me a feat of this kind. It seems that when I was last in India fulfilling a professional engagement, I took down some evidence given before a Royal Commis-

sion by a witness who spoke in the vernacular, and afterwards, although I knew nothing of the language, read it out from my notes. It is not necessary that I should make an affidavit to declare that I did no such thing. You will believe me without that solemn asseveration. I do not stop to explain why such a feat is impossible. Practical shorthand men like yourselves know all about it; but I have no doubt that notwithstanding our disclaimers, a portion of the public will still persist in saying that this is a possible achievement.

But how about taking down speeches in a foreign language which the reporter does understand, and translating it into his own tongue? This, of course, is a comparatively easy matter. But even here there is a limitation which I desire to notice. The translation can at best be only a rough one, and will require touching up before it is sent to the press. One reason for this is that the order of the words in the two languages will not be the same, and a reporter can hardly be expected to make the necessary transposition when engaged in rapid notetaking. I did, it is true, once see (I believe in one of your own shorthand periodicals) a facsimile, so-called, of some notes of a German speech taken down in English, and the words were set out in their proper order without the slightest error. It has been said that it is often necessary in a German scientific work to look for the verb at the end of the second volume. In the German speech to which I am referring the verbs were not quite so widely separated as this from their nominatives, but they occupied (as shown by the text which was given) very different positions from those in which they were placed in the facsimile, and the skill of a notetaker in re-arranging them must have been little short of appalling. Either he must have waited for the completion of a long sentence before beginning to translate, or he must have dodged backwards and forwards to drop in the words in their proper positions. There was no indication of any such erratic proceeding; the characters were mathematically correct: not a word was interlined, every outline was where it should be, and the speech could have been transcribed by any phonographer with the greatest ease.



Will you forgive me if I venture to question the integrity of that facsimile?

Another claim for the reporter's shorthand notes, which, I fear, must be disavowed, is that they can be used instead of longhand for printers' "copy." I do not say this has never been done. I have myself handed over to compositors who have understood shorthand a few pages of notes which have been set up and printed with no more errors than might have occurred with ordinary longhand transcript. But this was only done under exceptional circumstances. The speaker was not only deliberate but also very accurate in the composition of his sentences, which could be rendered precisely as they were delivered. How rarely this is the case we all know, sometimes to our cost, and I am quite sure that there would be something like a strike among compositors if they were required not only to decipher but to edit the transcript placed in their hands. Nor have I much faith in the plan sometimes suggested of going over the notes, dotting in a few vowels, making such alterations as may be needed in the structure of the sentences, and then sending in the transcript for the printers. I question whether much time would be saved by this method, and I am certain that the result on the whole would not be so satisfactory as the making of a written or type transcript in longhand with the usual contractions, which are now well understood in the printing offices of this country, and I have no doubt of yours. I see no objection, however, to making a transcript in clear shorthand so that the compositor may read it without difficulty. This has often been recommended, but I believe it has been very rarely attempted.

It may, I suppose, be considered a self-evident proposition that neither Pitman's Phonography (of which I am chiefly speaking) nor any other system of shorthand, is equal to the recording of the utterances of two or more speakers at the same time. And yet I remember hearing it deliberately stated to my old friend Joseph Pitman and myself by a well known inventor and teacher of shorthand that one of his best pupils could take down from the dictation of two persons, each reading from a book at an ordinary rate

of reading, and secure a verbatim note of both, each being kept distinct from the other. Whether he used two books or wrote with both hands at the same time were details as to which we did not cross-examine our informant. We simply expressed our surprise and our inability to exhibit such a result even amongst our most expert phonographic writers. Here is an opening for shorthand development that I commend to rival stenographic authors. If the field is properly cultivated the future test of a shorthand system may be not how rapidly a single speaker can be reported by it, but how many speakers can be taken down simultaneously. After all, this will only be what the telegraph wire does when it conveys two or more messages at the same time.

These, then, are a few of the limitations of shorthand that occur to me as worth mentioning with a view of removing certain misapprehensions which appear to exist on both sides of the Atlantic. If in what I have said I have seemed to act the part of an *advocatus diaboli*, believe me, I have no desire to accept a role of that character. I should much rather praise than find fault. But I am not finding fault. I am only disclaiming for phonography capabilities that have been erroneously attributed to it, not indeed by its best experts, but by the thoughtless and ill-informed. We do not like to hear even our best friends extravagantly praised lest the exaggeration should set up a feeling of antagonism. We know well enough what phonography can enable us to accomplish, and can be legitimately proud of its achievements without claiming for it a credit to which it is not entitled, and which its best qualified practitioners will always be the first to disavow. [Applause.]

MR. ROSE—A year ago while strolling about London looking for places that have been made interesting to Americans by the pens of Charles Dickens and other English novelists, I came upon a street sign, "Cursitor Lane." The sign arrested my attention, for it recalled to my mind the fact that in that street was the address of the gentleman who has favored us with this paper, Mr. Thomas Allen Reed, whose name is so well known by stenographers on this side of the water, and so closely identified with the shorthand art, as to have become almost a synonymous term. A few steps up

the street I found his office, and afterwards, in company with Mr. Little, called upon Mr. Reed and was very pleasantly received by him. Mr. Reed is a very genial, unassuming gentleman, somewhat advanced in years, but still hale and hearty. It does not take long to find out that he is a man of intelligence and wide experience; a man who expresses his opinions with frankness and honesty; and I am not surprised that he has in this plain, comprehensive manner expressed his opinion of the shams and pretences, and Munchausen-like claims that have for so long been hovering around and connected with the shorthand art. With Mr. Reed on the other side of the Atlantic, and my friend Little and others on this side, combatting these falsifications and extravagant pretensions, we may hope that the true capabilities of our present systems of shorthand may be properly understood and appreciated, and the public no longer deceived by these wild inventions and untruthful representations.

MR. LITTLE—A little over a year ago as stated by Mr. Rose, we had the pleasure of meeting the author of the paper, Mr. Reed, in London, and taking lunch with him at the National Liberal Club. Subsequently he took lunch with us at our hotel. The hours spent with him were very pleasant ones indeed, as we found him a most affable gentleman. He asked after our association, and seemed to take a great interest in its welfare. He spoke of it as not only the oldest but the leading organization in the profession, and desired us to convey his best wishes and salutations to the association. He spoke earnestly of visiting the United States, and said his first object in doing so would be to meet us in convention. Thomas Allen Reed is a Pitmanic writer, but he, like all good stenographers, varies the system to meet his requirements. There is no man more thoroughly versed in the stenographic art, no one better experienced, no one more capable. He spoke in derision of the statement which has gone the rounds that he reported an East Indian in his native tongue, and told us of his varied and interesting experiences in India and elsewhere. I incidentally asked him if he had yet acquired a speed sufficient to enable him to report and read back with

accuracy 250 words per minute for five minutes from new matter, and his only reply was "No, not yet,"—and he has been at it about fifty years.

Mr. Reed is a cultured, refined gentleman, small in stature, pleasing in appearance, and intelligent to an unusual degree—for a stenographer. He impressed me as being a man capable of writing just such a paper as it has been the good fortune of this association to receive from him, and for which we are under great obligations to him. Painstaking, careful, not inclined to make a statement which he cannot prove to be true, concise in every detail, never at a loss to present arguments, facts, illustrations, to maintain his position,—he is a gentleman whom we would like to meet in convention; to whom the thanks of this association are now due, for his admirable paper.

MR. THORNTON—I take pleasure in confirming what Mr. Little has said about Mr. Reed. I had the pleasure of seeing him in London on two or three different occasions. He is a very good illustration of the conservatism of the English people. I had a little conversation with Mr. Reed at one time in regard to the use of the typewriter. He claimed to be rather liberal and willing to adopt anything that showed it possessed any particular advantage. I said to him: "Do you like the typewriter?" "Well," said he, "I bought one; it is out there in the 'lumber-room.'" It is a very good toy, but I don't think it is of any practical utility as a machine." That was eight or ten years ago.

MR. LITTLE—How long ago was it that some members of this association said the same thing? Not much longer than that.

MR. GRIFFITH—I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to the very able paper presented to our association by Mr. Reed, and a portion of it reminds me of an experience I once had. In connection with other numerous accomplishments which the general public, and especially the legal profession, expect from the law reporter, is the ability to hear and understand perfectly the answers of witnesses, notwithstanding the fact that it is manifestly impossible for any one to do so, and that is so especially where the witness

is of foreign birth and speaks our language brokenly, or speaks indistinctly because of some physical impediment. While we know, generally speaking, that that cannot be accomplished, except in a limited way, yet, many of us have furnished some basis for such a misconception of our abilities.

I remember at one time I was taking the testimony of an old German woman, whose speech was so disconnected and broken that it seemed impossible to make an intelligible report of it. The court, jury and counsel disclaimed any knowledge as to what she was talking about, although she seemed to understand the questions, and answered them fairly. As there were certain reasons for not using an interpreter, it was agreed by everybody concerned (except the stenographer, who was not consulted in the matter) that she should be allowed to answer in her own way and that, after the examination was concluded, the stenographer should read what he had while the witness should judge of the correctness of the record so taken. Fortunately, I had had considerable experience with such witnesses, and came out of the ordeal with flying colors, not a single correction being made by the witness.

Doubtless many others have had similar experiences, and in that way furnished to the non-professional a basis for ascribing to us almost supernatural powers.

MR. OSGOODBY—I am very much pleased, Mr. President, with the tone and character of this paper, and especially so with its treatment of shorthand shams. Coming as it does from the pen of so well-known a stenographer as Mr. Thomas Allen Reed, it is to be hoped that it will be received as bearing the impress of authority. It is a very timely article, too, for it comes during a lull in the operations of that mighty spirit Brag, who but a few years ago was filling our shorthand journals with wonderful accounts of impossible achievements—accounts of feats in stenography which never were performed, and never can be performed—accounts which were well calculated to astonish and dishearten and dismay the rank and file of the profession, and to convey to the mind of the general public the idea that another age of miracle had dawned upon the world:

I have on several occasions ventured to enter a public protest against the extravagant and untruthful claims made by persons who thus arrogate to themselves all skill in the practice of shorthand—these braggarts, who are like the cock who thought the sun rose to hear him crow; and I am glad of the opportunity afforded by Mr. Reed's paper again to enter my protest. The only criticism I can make upon his remarks, is that he is too *polite* in his remonstrance; for, in my opinion, such things should be denounced in no measured terms. It is true that shorthand is at times capable of accomplishing wonders, but such wonders are not to be accomplished to order. They come as a surprise to the writer. They do not wait for the appointment of a committee to stand, watch in hand, to time the performance. They come from the particular necessity of the occasion which produces them. They come only when the mind of the writer is entirely *en rapport* with that of the speaker, and when no extraneous matter interferes with his work. It is such occurrences, known only to the stenographer himself, and not even suspected by those who listen to the matter reported, that give him a sense of power, and it is in them that the great charm of our work consists.

That there are many difficulties connected with the practice of shorthand, which limit its possibilities and detract from its usefulness, we all know. Some of the most important and embarrassing of these difficulties are created by the ignorance or indifference of those who are most interested in the correctness of the report. In many cases, these difficulties may be partially or wholly overcome, if the stenographer has the firmness to insist upon proper conditions and reasonable facilities for doing his work. Most of the members of this association are law stenographers, and all of them know how many annoyances are constantly occurring to affect the quality of their work. How often have we found ourselves obliged to write in imperfect light, or in such positions as to make it extremely difficult to hear either counsel or witness! How often have we to report for counsel who, however intricate or technical their cases may be, rush through them at breakneck speed, utterly regardless of the stenographer who is doing his ut-

most to make his record perfect, and utterly oblivious of the fact that whatever success they may have at the trial may be lost upon appeal by reason of some defect in the record for which they are themselves responsible ! How often have we to contend with the legal fledgling, whose examination consists in a confidential conversation with his witness, about something appearing upon a map or other exhibit, in reference to which neither the court nor the jury nor the stenographer can know anything ! How often are we obliged to take the testimony of so-called "expert witnesses," whose only expertness seems to consist in airing themselves, and in using as many technical expressions as they have had time to cram into their heads, and in mouthing them so unctuously that it is impossible to understand them ! The only alternative, in such cases, is to do the best we can under the conditions that embarrass us ; and if the lawyer find the record to be imperfect because of his own fault, or if the expert find the record of his testimony exhibiting him as an ignoramus, let them make the best of the situation in which they have placed themselves.

It is not the duty of the stenographer, at all times and under all circumstances, to make an absolutely verbatim report ; it is his duty, however, to do the best he can, whatever may be the conditions of embarrassment under which he labors ; and when, from no fault of his own but from the fault of those whose interest in the perfection of his work is or should be fully as great as his own, he is unable to do good work, the blame is not his, and he need not trouble himself about the result—it is the other fellow who should "do the walking."

I am glad to be able to say that some of our judges appreciate something of the annoyances to which we are subjected, and that they occasionally interfere to remove them. Such interference has often been interposed in my own experience, and if time permitted I could relate a number of such instances ; but for fear of occupying too much time, I will content myself with describing but one of them. I was once reporting a case in court at Rochester, when counsel offered a long document in evidence, prefacing it with the remark that he wished me to take it in my notes :

and he immediately turned his back to me and began reading it to the jury. I attempted to take it, but it was read at so rapid a rate, and in such an indistinct tone of voice, that I was obliged to abandon the effort. The lawyer noticed that I was not writing, and repeated his request; when the judge remarked to him, in substance, "Mr. M——, no stenographer could take that document, as you read it. Many of the sentences are read in such a manner that it is with extreme difficulty that I can understand them, and you cannot expect the stenographer, who sits behind you, to understand them—much less to write them;" and he then directed that a copy of the document be furnished to me, if it was desired that it appear in the record.

But it is not alone in law reporting that annoyances are to be met with that limit the possibilities of shorthand. They are always occurring, in every kind of work, and the stenographer can never know what particular form the annoyance will take, until it actually confronts him. Any one who has seen the work done by reporters in the House of Representatives, must have recognized the difficulties under which they labor—difficulties which would be insurmountable to one who has not the general information necessary for such varied work and the faculty of intelligently editing such reports. I am sorry that we have not with us to-day some of the members of the congressional corps who could set before us more clearly the disadvantages under which they work.

There is another subject discussed by Mr. Reed, to which I should refer, and that is, that of the practicability of using shorthand manuscript for printer's "copy." I agree with Mr. Reed, that this is not practicable, but for a different reason than that given by him. Although I have never had any experience in this use of shorthand, I cannot see why compositors should not be able to set type directly from well written notes, and this without any retouching of the outlines. It would be necessary, of course, that the compositor should thoroughly understand the system used, and that the reporter should be able to write it legibly. It has been my practice, for nearly thirty years, to turn over my own notes of law reports to my copyists for direct trans-



cription, and I am sure the transcripts have uniformly been far more free from errors than proofs from the "cleanest" of typesetters where the compositor works from longhand manuscript; indeed, it is very seldom that I find any serious error in them. It is true that most of this work has been done by copyists who have had some experience in reading my notes, but in very many instances, when crowded with work, I have been obliged to call in copyists who were familiar with the system I write though without experience in reading my shorthand manuscript, and nearly always I have had most satisfactory results. I know that in the offices of Mr. Little and Mr. Griffith the same method of getting out transcripts has been pursued with success, and it is the custom of many American stenographers. I do not understand why compositors might not with equal facility and success set type from notes written in a system with which they are familiar. Compositors are proverbially intelligent, and there cannot be any reason why they should not be able to do what is so commonly done by copyists in the offices of so many stenographers. The great drawback upon this use of shorthand is the difficulty of finding printers who understand any system; and I confess that I can see no reason why compositors should take the trouble to prepare for such work, when there is little or no likelihood of their ever being able to gain any advantage to themselves from it. The principal reason why such copy cannot be thus used is to be found in the multiplicity of systems; for, even if we could find compositors sufficiently familiar with a single system to be able to set type from copy written in it, the chances are ten to one that the copy presented to them would be written in a different system.

Before taking my seat, I must refer briefly to another cause of the limitation of the usefulness of shorthand, which has just been suggested to me—and this relates especially to its use in business houses. It is the employment of ignorant and dishonest teachers of shorthand—Heaven save the mark!—and their name is Legion. Such teachers, for the sake of their fees, accept the most illiterate applicants, knowing that such persons can never become

successful writers, and they are constantly "graduating" the most sorry specimens of writers that can well be imagined. Many of these self-styled teachers have not sufficient knowledge of shorthand to enable them to fill the most ordinary positions of amanuenses, and yet they are loud in their claims of ability to instruct pupils, and to prepare them in a few weeks' time for the most responsible positions. It is a duty resting upon every one of us, and a duty we should by no means shrink from, to denounce these charlatans at every opportunity, and, as far as is possible, prevent the constant frauds they are perpetrating.

Mr. HEAD—Mr. President : It gives me great pleasure to know that some one has at least taken up the subject of the *limitations* of shorthand. It is astonishing to see the misapprehension and ignorance that exists among the general public in regard to the powers, capabilities and proper functions of the art of shorthand. We hear so much about the marvelous feats of reporting that have been performed by amateur stenographers, that it is positively refreshing to hear something about the limitations of the art. Every few months we see going the rounds of the papers some variation of that positively absurd and ridiculous story about reporting a totally unknown foreign language phonetically and making an accurate transcript of the same through an interpreter. I never knew before that this feat had been ascribed to Mr. Reed. It is generally some unknown and undiscoverable scion of the art who performs this miraculous feat. But this fable is really no more absurd than many other ideas which are entertained even by intelligent people in regard to the capabilities and proper functions of shorthand. It seems to me that we owe it both to the public and to ourselves to correct these erroneous ideas at the earliest possible moment. In order that our work may be properly understood and appreciated, it is desirable that the public should understand exactly what they have a right to expect, and what they have *no* right to expect of the shorthand writer. While the capabilities of shorthand in the hands of a competent writer are great, its limitations are also manifold. There are

limitations of the ear, there are limitations of the brain there are limitations of the hand, there are limitations of muscular and nervous adaptability and endurance, and there are limitations of available material for shorthand characters, all of which tend to place a fixed and unsurmountable limit to the speed of shorthand work.

There are gathered in this hall to-night some of the oldest and most capable stenographers on this continent—men who have grown gray in the work, and whose names are familiar wherever the art of shorthand is known ; and yet I venture that there is not a man within the hall who would for a moment dare to claim even a tithe of the marvelous feats which we hear constantly exploited as having been performed by some amateur amanuensis or three months graduate. And yet these fables are not only believed by the general public, but even by people who have had every opportunity to be better informed upon the subject.

There are attorneys, and even judges, who have been familiar with shorthand work for years, who seem to think that it is entirely within the legitimate limits and province of shorthand to put into elegant English the most incoherent and inarticulate speech, uttered at any possible rate of speed; to reproduce, or rather produce, sounds that were never uttered; to make order out of chaos, and sense out of nonsense ; and make the speaker say exactly what he ought to have said, whether he ever thought it himself or not. These false ideas and this want of knowledge on the part of the public are the means of laying great and unjust burdens upon the shoulders of the professional stenographer, and of bringing great and bitter disappointment to young stenographers and their employers as well. I therefore repeat, that we owe it both to the public and ourselves to correct these erroneous ideas, and give the general public some more accurate knowledge of what should be and what should not be expected of the shorthand reporter ; and I am glad that the subject has been taken up by so eminent and representative a man as Mr. Reed.

Mr. Bishop read the following paper :

**A New Theme for Our Consideration.**

BY GEORGE R. BISHOP, OF NEW YORK CITY.

At the International Stenographic Congress, held recently at Chicago as part of the World's Exhibition there, an honorary member of this Association submitted a paper that was devoted to a discussion of the interesting question : *What Has Half a Century Done for Shorthand?* With the facts stated and the conclusions expressed in that able essay, I think we may assume nearly all the members of this body are familiar ; especially as, at our 1894 meeting, a paper, equally elaborate, and criticising the original essay, was read, and has been printed in our proceedings.

The discussion of the subject, in these two essays, was confined to a consideration of the question whether, in that limited but important part of the shorthand field occupied by the Pitman phonography and certain not widely divergent adaptations of it, there had been noteworthy progress or improvement ; no reference being made, in either of them, to the great, picturesque, diversified field outside. Such a treatment, however thorough, confined within the limitations imposed by each of the essayists on himself, was necessarily narrow, as anyone who had kept at all abreast of current knowledge on the subject in its larger, cosmopolitan sense, would regard it. It may have been more highly utilitarian, for the reading shorthand public of our own land, than any broader discussion would have been, especially as the great majority of learners and practitioners of the art in this country use, or are learning, the Pitman pure and simple, or some slightly modified or re-adapted form of it. I am confident, though, that many, with some knowledge of the art, as it exists in England and in countries in which English is not the vernacular, would have been gratified to see a treatment of the matter, by these able analysts, from a more commanding and comprehensive point of view.

It must be borne in mind, to be sure, that an adequate treatment, from such a vantage ground, would have been possible only for such as had spent time in comparing an

analyzing systems and materials that exhibit wide divergencies from those that are at the basis of most of the shorthand written in North America. In England, the material for a comprehensive discussion would have been more readily accessible, because there, more than here, a great variety of systems is written, by active professional practitioners ;—to such an extent indeed, and under such sanctions and guaranties of expertness and respectability, official and unofficial, as to draw attention almost more markedly—except through advertisements—towards systems a century or more old, than towards anything as recent in origin as 1837 or 1840. Fortunately for comprehensiveness of view, our German friends—with that energy which, in the domain of manufactures and trade, has enabled them to challenge the long-maintained supremacy of other nations, and to compete with them in the markets of the world—have for some years been exploiting, I understand with much success, adaptations to English of at least two of the best known German systems, in the different English speaking countries—especially in England—with a beginning in the United States. I say “fortunately ;” because there are peculiarities of these German systems wholly *outside* the question—(which question I do not propose to discuss)—of script as opposed to geometric characters, a consideration of which peculiarities might be advantageous. Some of those peculiarities of the German systems have profoundly impressed the minds of more than one English scholar ; as a reference to one author, whose system is a *script* system, shows. Particularizing for a moment, I may say, that Mr. Calendar, who is an A. M. and a Fellow of one of the best-known colleges of the English Cambridge, has written several hand-books, on phonetics and on stenography, which display research and ingenuity in a high degree. He has sent me copies of several of his publications, at least one of which, his *Manual of Cursive Shorthand* (Cambridge, 1889), I have examined with much interest.

It is a revelation, to one who has been familiar with only the geometric systems, to discover how, by variations and combinations of lines, and directions, and shadings, it is possible to represent not only the elementary sounds with

completeness, but also a large number of syllabic combinations, prefixes and affixes, without employing a single such geometric form as a phonographic page exhibits. Whether or not this fact may convince one that this system should be cultivated to the *exclusion* of the geometric, or not,—and personally I do *not* think it should—it may very well persuade one, however skeptical as to the point just suggested, that there are large possibilities involved, for *adding to the material*, and consequently to the *expressiveness*, of *systems fundamentally* geometric, by incorporating with their geometric forms certain—perhaps but a very few—easily written and clearly distinguished *script* ones that are used in the German and by Mr. Calendar—though these would probably be judiciously appropriated to the representing of different sounds and combinations—such in short as might be found to be most needed to *supplement* those most easily expressed, already, by our geometric signs.

Avoiding reference to anything personal except merely to illustrate, I repeat, in substance, what I said in a short article in the August issue of Mr. Heffley's "*Educator*," and refer to what Mr. Gurney-Salter, the official shorthand writer to both Houses of the British Parliament, some time since wrote me, in a letter which I very highly prized,—in which, referring to certain *script* forms with which I had myself supplemented the geometric ones that constituted the fundamental material of the shorthand that I write, he said: "Considering how much your system has in common with the great German systems that write their vowels in the outline, I wonder you do not refer to them by way of confirmation." Mr. Gurney-Salter writes, as we all know, one of the old geometric systems, the Gurney; but he is a man of wide learning and observation concerning our art; is, I believe, thoroughly unprejudiced, concededly an expert in his profession:—he was President of the 1887 World's Congress at London; and in the British metropolis, where so much expert work is done in systems long antedating the Pitman, and where German and French adaptations to English are resolutely and actively exploited, his opportunities have been, and are, peculiarly advantageous for forming a just estimate concerning the possibilities attending the use of

different materials ; while the fact that he is not interested in promoting the introduction and extension of the system he writes, but says it does not advertise, has never employed "sandwich men" to stand at the street corners to distribute circulars in its interest, and that it is even difficult for would-be learners of it to ascertain *where* they can learn it, —all this is in favor of his judgment being without bias. In my own view, it is no longer a question of systems exclusively script or exclusively geometric, but of the advantage with which and the extent to which one—say a geometric—can be broadened, and its weak parts strengthened, by the incorporation and mingling of material from the other class or school.

It will be noted that these observations are, in the larger sense, in alignment with those contained in the papers of Mr. Brown and Mr. Bowman :—both invaded a field which, in the earlier history of our Association, we rather carefully avoided—one which might involve a discussion of *systems*. With our own members, all or nearly all then writing different adaptations of the same fundamental scheme, a discussion of "systems" would almost necessarily have meant a debate on matters incidental, and relatively trivial, not such as appertained to things elemental and fundamental. Whether shorthand and text-books of shorthand had been complicated and made more difficult, or had been simplified ; whether the changes made, either simplifying or complicating, had given the practical writer who mastered the innovations any advantage over one knowing the art only as set forth in the 9th edition (which edition was substantially perpetuated in those earlier Benn Pitman books which all the best-known Benn Pitman writers follow),—all these would be questions going merely to incidentals, not to fundamentals ; and such discussions are likely to become minutely technical ; are liable to degenerate into sharp debates over mere trifles. Such discussions would be widely different from a sober, careful consideration of broad and well marked divergencies going to the very basilar raw materials of the art,—the characteristic signs employed to represent the *alphabets*, either of sounds or letters, of very differently constructed systems. In the first case, it would

seem hardly fitting for a body of expert writers to employ their own time and energies, in solving such minute questions: in the other, involving an inquiry going to the foundation of the matter, and promising definite results on a very broad subject, it may be worth considering whether the task would be either belittling or useless. An inquiry that should result in arriving at a definite conclusion on a topic of increasing importance in an educational way, could hardly be liable to the imputation of mere fancifulness, or of being a discussion merely in the air; and it certainly has become a vitally interesting and important inquiry,—How shall the young best overcome the impediments, on all lines of education, imposed by the necessity of using our cumbersome longhand wherever they require an unmistakable script? Suppose—merely to take a hypothetical case—that a duly appointed committee were to examine into something new and discover that there existed a mode of writing—say, to illustrate, only four times as quick as the ordinary script; something which could be read as readily; which presented no more doubts and uncertainties than ordinary script does; with which one could express every sound and every letter, just as certainly as print with the diacritical marks does; or suppose something not quite that, but nearly approaching it, was found, which the ingenuity of the committee itself saw an easy way of perfecting,—here, certainly, a good result would be within our grasp. We know that in the early days of phonography there was much consultation and conferring, and that radical modifications and additions resulted; though no efforts seem to have been made to make the system of *indications* more definite—obviously an absolute *sine qua non* to scientific accuracy. What is here suggested is, that a similar method, but with very much larger results in view, might be applied, in our effort to fix on or arrive at something *scientifically accurate*. This might involve a consideration of such a combination as has been heretofore hinted at—of the materials of one *school* of systems, with those of another, in order to round out and complete the representation of both letters and sounds,—representing either, with



complete exactness, as readily as the common shorthand now expresses them ambiguously.

It is a characteristic of the Gurney that it indicates intervening or medial vowels by the relative position of succeeding signs to preceding, in such a way that *only two* are implied by one indication—a great gain over the indications of the shorthand with which most of us are familiar ; and it is a contention of Prof. Everett that at most *his* indications are not more inexact than possibly representing one of two. Without suggesting how near an approach has been made by any system, German or other, to an *exact* representation, it will be conceded by all that an absolutely definite indication,—an absolutely unambiguous representation,—is highly desirable. It is a question whether—following the example of a well-known association in London—if a sufficient representation were made that suggestions were forthcoming that promised such an achievement or consummation, it would not be in the line of utility to appoint a committee to examine and report upon the practicability of the suggestion made. If there were charlatanism and pretense, such a report might “settle the hash” of the charlatan, or, if there were merit, indicate the existence of that. The report would most assuredly command confidence. This would no doubt involve sacrifices on the part of the members of such a committee ; but at our meetings I always see those whose services in this line would be appreciated by the stenographic public, however great the modesty of the members comprising the committee. Then, the general discussion of the report would be valuable ; for, if developed on lines that were broad enough, it would exhibit the views of those whose practical dealings with stenographic material—the simple forms or signs employed, and their combinations—should have well fitted them to pass judgment on at least the facility, ease and swiftness, with which the outlines submitted could be written—in short, the *dynamic* qualities of the materials employed ; while the expressiveness of the signs relatively to their simplicity or complexity, would be a matter of easy determination for them. It is an infirmity

of the intellect that it often assumes that to which it has become accustomed, to be *naturally* better adapted to given ends, than anything unfamiliar and outside its own experience can be. This fact might, it is true, tend to render the verdict somewhat less favorable to the new devices than their inherent merits justified ; but a little conservatism would be better than precipitancy in accepting innovations. Still, perhaps nowhere else could greater generosity and catholicity of view, joined with sound judgment, be looked for. Those amongst us of most experience have had opportunities of seeing what excellent work can be done, with systems, and adaptations of a single system, quite widely divergent :—our whole experience should have taught us that it is unsafe to pin one's faith to the absolute superiority, at all points, of any system that has been practiced for a quarter of a century ; that it is unsafe to assume it to be *the* one that possesses all the chief merits attainable in any. The last generation has been prolific of inventions, no adumbration or hint of which was discovered forty years ago ; hence, it can hardly be wise to assume that the era of improvement is at an end, with any practical art whatever. Dr. Holmes has humorously but trenchantly expressed our swift advance, when he writes :

What next ? we ask ; and is it true  
The sunshine falls on nothing new,  
As Israel's king declared ?  
Was ocean ploughed with harnessed fire ?  
Were nations coupled with a wire ?  
Did Tarshish telegraph to Tyre ?  
How Hiram should, have stared !

But my suggestion—for what I have written is only that—points to no expectation of a thrilling, thorough-going novelty ; it is far more modest. It need not even jar on or disturb the equanimity of one who is convinced that we already have what at the foundation is the best thing attainable for the next century. It involves merely the possibility of supplementing the material we now use with a *few* additional, strongly differentiated signs, in order to express, with an ease and quickness not yet attained, some of those combinations of sound that very frequently occur, in English as ordinarily spoken and written.

On a matter of this kind, proposing an innovation, it is a

relief to be able to refer to what, in some sense, might be considered as an authority; and in doing this, I should avoid appealing to any that was not of the highest. At the Congress in London, 1887, there was, along with the discussion of purely legal shorthand writing, another, covering many pages, on the characteristics of systems, with the end professedly in view of discovering improvement. The answers submitted by Monsieur Depin of Paris, and Dr. Weber of Luxemburg, referring specifically to the systems in the French Parliament, mentioned about half a dozen, including that of Aimé-Paris, the system used by M. Guenin, one of the most celebrated practitioners in Paris, and by our own honorary member, of the Parliament at Ottawa, M. Desjardins. In addition, the discussion that follows exhibits to us the views of two of the best known practitioners in London, Mr. Gurney-Salter, the stenographer to both Houses of Parliament, and Mr. Theodore Wright, one of the Council of the Institute of Shorthand Writers, the principal professional shorthand society of the British metropolis. Mr. Wright thinks the great principle of shorthand should be *utility*, but that striving too much after scientific or pseudo-scientific principles, often leads inventors into a snare. He thinks inventors who have formed alphabets on the supposed analogy between the vocal organs and the marks they make on paper, may be right *phonetically*, and all that; but he is obviously of the opinion that, in order to achieve the great object of shorthand writing—that object being, *to report whatever you attempt to report*—one may ignore finely drawn analogies and strict principles; on the same principle that Mr. Reed, in his paper that we have heard, seems to have been convinced that in certain exigencies one may disregard phonetics and every other principle, in order to attain this same main end. Mr. Gurney-Salter commends the observations made by Mr. Wright and another of the speakers wherein they had pointed out “That it is desirable that *practical* shorthand writers should meet together, compare experiences, and exchange opinions as to the principles and *possible improvements* in the art.”

The above may be sufficient; but I may, in closing, re

mind the Association that they may find, in our Proceedings of, as I remember, 1884,—the first meeting held in the Catskills—a paper by our worthy President who is at this moment presiding over our deliberations, describing the expedients resorted to by him when—not exactly as an English poet puts it, “The *world* is too much *with* us,” but when, unfortunately, the *speaker* is too much *for* us.

MR. LITTLE—I do not know much about this subject, but I would like to ask the gentleman a question in regard to whether he would deem it advisable or practicable to coalesce the two systems—the script and the geometric—using some portions of each so as to make your *hair* distinctions?

MR. BISHOP—I do not refer so much to hair distinctions, or distinctions of shading, as to those of *form*. We must admit that one very important point in constructing shorthand systems is to get distinctive forms. If we could give attention to form *wholly*, letting shading, and half-lengthening, and double-lengthening go; if we could get easily written, simple, distinguishable, strongly differentiated outlines or forms, without attending to the other differences—of shading, lengthening, etc.,—it would obviously be a great gain. I doubt if we can ever do this; the attainment of such forms in sufficient number must be at the sacrifice of the simplicity and brevity, that are indispensable for rapid work. But whether we think—as probably most of us do—that our German friends reach their distinctive forms at the expense of simplicity and brevity, we can any of us see that their writing contains many quite simple outlines, outlines different from any of ours—forms that would indeed seem strange in a phonographic page, but which, being so very different, and therefore so distinguishable, from those we usually write, might, for that very reason, and with no danger of confusion, be incorporated or mingled—very sparsely, perhaps—with our phonographic geometrical signs. That they might be termed “arbitraries,” need not alarm us;—for our phonography is pretty full of arbitraries,—that is, signs that are not alphabetic. Our “con,” “com,” dots, and our “ing” dots, are arbitraries,—not alphabetic at all; so with our circles for “self,” “selves,” “circum,” and our

ticks for "contra," "contro," "ing-a," "ing-the," "ing-dthr;" so with Munson's loop (detached) for "st," "is it," "has it," "sdthr," "is dthr," "has dthr,"—and so on. Doubtless every phonographer has wished he had some easier and quicker way of representing the *ns*-combinations, —*nst*, *nsd*, *nsr*, *nsi*, etc. Some of the French systems have a special *ns*-sign, easy, simple, short, and, if they do not conflict with anything else, as they seem not to—with their other signs—entirely commendable, for practical use. The point is, that there are frequently recurring combinations of sounds, or letters, for the representing of which we need something *quicker than our analytic alphabetic representation*. If we can get, from the German forms or elsewhere, something easily distinguishable or recognizable, and more easily and rapidly written than our alphabetic representations, I see no objection to doing so on the ground that we make our system a hybrid or conglomerate one.

MR. LITTLE—I have from time to time seen specimens of writing in different systems, published in phonographic journals in this country as well as other countries, and it occurs to me that the most of writers use the "script" systems (in appearance), because it is easier. The careful writers, however, use the geometric, upon which the script system is founded. One writer may round his angles and slide his strokes, thereby writing a script system practically, while another may write sharp angles and accurate strokes and thereby write the geometric, both using the same system of shorthand. The specimens of writing before referred to convince me that there are more script writers than geometric—[Laughter]—but the statement has no reference to members of this association.

MR. BISHOP—You refer to *geometric* shorthand which assumes a *script appearance*?

MR. LITTLE—The gentleman is precise in his apprehension and statement of my meaning. [Laughter].

The cause of this is largely, I think, the fact that nearly every stenographer in the country has endeavored to obtain great speed in his first practice, without having any geometric aspiration; sacrificing, to a certain extent, legibility. There are some geometric writers, however, whose notes do

not take on the script form. I do not believe that there is a script system with which very rapid work can be done with accuracy.

MR. BISHOP—My suggestion, of course, was intended merely to imply that a *few* script forms—and something widely different from ours—might be inserted for certain things that are difficult to express—things that are hurled at us by the mouthful, and which we do not want to write a half dozen signs to express.

MR. LITTLE—Can the gentleman possibly determine, at this distance of time preceding the times when such conditions should occur, exactly what script character would be needed to represent what at that time will have been said, which his system would exactly reproduce?

MR. BISHOP—I think I can answer affirmatively, to this extent: that there are certainly frequently occurring combinations of sounds which, in any phonography I have ever seen, *are difficult to represent as rapidly as we want to represent them*. There are things I have had in mind, from time to time, that need such a lightning-like representation; I find they occur very often; and it is for just these things, a sufficiently rapid mode of expressing which the usual signs of all the systems fail to furnish, that I would introduce *occasionally* (I do not say *numerously* or *frequently*) a clearly distinguished, easily written script or other sign—to supply the deficiency, to supplement the weakness, in these particular respects, of the current, best known systems.

MR. LITTLE—Then as to the difference in pronunciation: to distinguish that, it would require an additional character to represent such distinction. Would it not be better to have a single character representing that sound? Instead of using a script combination, for instance, use a regular character?

MR. BISHOP—Sometimes there is a difficulty in distinguishing between, for example, *expect*, *accept*, *except*; I use an arbitrary form for the most frequently occurring one, *expect*, and the whole matter becomes easy. I repeat, it is no cause for alarm that it happens to be an arbitrary;—if it helps one in a tight place—a situation in which words come at the writer in volleys, hard even to understand, to

say nothing of writing them down so as to readily read them at any time afterwards,—*that* affords a pretty good justification for the device, in my judgment ;—a rigid adherence to set forms because theory required that they alone should be used, would not commend itself to a practitioner who had wide experience of the hurly-burly and torrent and cyclone of words with which the reporter is sometimes assailed. The users of other systems sometimes criticise our *hooks*, on the ground that, as to the initial ones, while they precede or are at the beginning of the stroke, they are sounded *after* the sound of the stroke is heard,—as, PR, the R-sound coming last ; but while this criticism may be *theoretically* sound, the practical fact being, that the use of the material affords a facile mode of representing very frequently recurring combinations or coalescences of sounds, is sufficient, for our justification ;—it is sufficient to justify Mr. Pitman for having adopted—and I understand it was quite largely adopted—this scheme, from the earlier authors—Hardinge, Goode, or whoever it may have been.

The suggestion as to pronunciation presents no difficulty, that I can discover, though words of different sounds sometimes have the same consonant outline. The reference to the sign for *expect* was simply to illustrate the value of distinguishing easily, and as quickly as thought, between words that *written alphabetically*, might have substantially *the same consonant outline*—there being a mere difference, perhaps, in position, as in *except* and *accept*. We must have the *practical* end in view, of course, a part of which is, to have an unmistakable sign for each word—a sign which, if written with reasonable accuracy, is recognizable on the instant. Getting this sign for *expect* so different from signs or forms for the other two words, that it is instantly read as "*expect*," no matter where it is—though out of all relation to other words—irrespective of any context—I am not restrained from using it because it may seem to be an excrescence, in one sense, on the system. It is a common sign, in phonography (in which it is arbitrarily used, to represent a diphthong), but is appropriated to a wholly different use from that best known ; so, it can hardly be considered an excrescence, perhaps, in the ordinary sense of that word.

MR. LITTLE—Do you mean that you would distinguish between *air* and *are*, for instance?

MR. BISHOP—No; we must use judgment, if we construct arbitraries, or add signs;—we should not do it to represent distinctions that have no utility. The three words here named indicate the point. It has not primarily to do with sounds; though I do not say that there might not be two words of *identical sound* that might well have different signs to represent them; but I think of none such now.

I recognize the wisdom wrapped up in the remark of our friend from the city by the Genesee, and also its wit;—it is true, some writers of systems supposedly geometric, do give us pretty fair exemplifications, so far as appearance goes, of script writing; but I need not suggest to any one, that by *script* I refer to systems that, written normally and in the highest perfection of outline, are on a script slant, or, really, script in character. The remark of our friend from the Seventh District enables me to make the matter perfectly unmistakable, if it was not so before; and I therefore express my obligations to him, not only for the witticism, but for the opportunity it gives me to make my meaning plain beyond any possibility of being misunderstood.

MR. LOMB—Not being in very good voice to-day in consequence of a bad throat, I will not attempt to discuss this paper, nor the questions that have been raised by Mr. Bishop and Mr. Little. But this suggestion occurs to me in reference to Mr. Little's views. I have had the honor of being a member of this association some eight years. When present at the annual meetings (which has only been twice) I have listened to, and when absent I have perused, in the proceedings, the remarks of brother Little on the various topics presented. I imagine a meeting of the association without his presence would be a very quiet affair. What I am coming to, however, is that he does not hold to the same opinion from year to year. I presume it is because of his natural bent to always be on the opposite side for the sake of argument. I think he has said somewhere in the proceedings in effect that a certain system may be a good system for a particular individual, and the best thing for that individual to do is to stick to that system to the end;



that it would not be of benefit for him to adopt any improvements or modifications, and that it is often fatal for him to change to another system. I was pleased to agree with brother Little in that view. It would appear that a change has come over him since his interview with Mr. Thomas Allen Reed. My experience and observation have taught me that after a system has once been mastered with any degree of success, it is not practicable to change to another. It is just as impracticable for the stenographer to continually adopt new forms, abbreviations, phrases, etc., because speed is retarded thereby.

My investigations have failed to disclose a system where absolute accuracy was insured and the liability to err reduced to a minimum. Every system that I know anything about has its pitfalls, into which the reporter is constantly stumbling because of the microscopic distinctions he is obliged to make in writing certain words.

Some few years ago this subject suggested itself to me on reading a criticism of General Butler's book, in which the late General was taken to task for stating that a certain object was "above the deck," whereas from indisputable evidence it was shown to be in an entirely different location. The doughty General at once published a reply claiming that the expression should have been "abaft the deck," and that the error which had escaped the eye of the proof reader and author, arose from the fact that the book was dictated to a stenographer who, the General thought, did not hear the word aright.

A precisely similar controversy arose some years ago in connection with an address delivered by Senator Wm. M. Evarts. An official stenographer had reported him as saying: "They oppose this measure on bad grounds." Mr. Evarts vehemently asserted that instead of saying "bad" grounds, he really said "two" grounds.

A like situation was provoked some time ago, when in the House of Representatives Mr. Walker, of Massachusetts, quoted Prof. Wm. Everett, also of Massachusetts, as saying in September, 1884: "A Mugwump is the best of Americans." This the eminent professor indignantly denied, claiming that he was misreported, and averred that what he

did say was 'A Mugwump is the best of American,' meaning that the word "Mugwump" is of unchallengeable American origin, the word having been used by a tribe of Massachusetts Indians before the landing of the Pilgrims.

I will not weary you by recounting other instances like the above where the language of persons has been distorted and much misunderstanding and ill-feeling resulted because of an exceedingly slight imperfection in the formation of phonographic characters. Be as vigilant as you may, these embarrassing situations will crop out in the daily experience of every reporter once in a while. That they do not occur with more frequency is due to the high degree of intelligence exhibited by the stenographer of to-day, which enables him to make those fine discriminations in the use of words, and avoid the traps he would otherwise fall into. Our only safety lies in not adopting forms where too fine distinctions have to be made. The system we write becomes a part of our very selves. We cannot change it just as we do bicycles or typewriters every time new ones appear on the market. There may be some who have the ability to do it, which I very much doubt.

MR. LITTLE—This brings to my mind an error made, a number of years ago, in transcribing a speech delivered in the eastern part of the State, where the speaker referred to another man as "the representative Senator from New York." The stenographer had written "ray-pee-iss-enter" and it was printed in the papers next morning "the rip-snorter from New York." I have in my hand a circular of a script system of shorthand and I recommend it to the use of those who are now troubled with the systems which they are using. It was passed to me through the mail—received in due course—and discovered by accident as I was coming from home. This little pamphlet, published in October, 1895, is a circular of a script system. The first claim reads thus :

"The simplest system of shorthand in the world. The easiest to learn. A hundred times easier than the old writing.

Two million people (2,000,000) throughout the world already practising this system of phonography. It is adapted to over twenty different languages.

Can be learned without teacher in one to three hours. Any one can learn it in a few hours and become expert in it in a few days.

If you are a stranger to shorthand, take this paper and become acquainted with this useful art.

If you have failed to learn shorthand owing to the complication of the system you adopted, or from want of time, do not give up, but try this system, and wonder at its simplicity.

Time is precious. You will save time as soon as you are acquainted with this phonography.

I will read a recommendation in regard to this system :

" Four days ago I began to examine the elements of shorthand you sent me, and in three hours I learned every sign it included. The next day I went to work and began to decipher phrasing and went through in one day. Now I can read it pretty readily and write it faster than I can read it. I am proud of my success, because I thought that I was too old to have the patience and memory to master it. And I must thank you for being the means of my learning it. I am proud of enlisting myself as one of your pupils. Though my hair is white as snow, I see one is never too old to learn."

That recommendation is from Troy, N. Y. (Derisive laughter.)

MR. OSGOODBY—Rodgers' hair is not white.

MR. LITTLE—That's so ; that clears him.

MR. RODGERS—It's a little off, though.

The committee on admission of new members reported favorably on all the names proposed for Active and Honorary membership, and they were unanimously elected.

The Auditing Committee reported having examined the accounts, and vouchers attached, of the Secretary-Treasurer, and found them correct. Report received and adopted.

President Thornton named the following committees, with instructions to report the next morning :

On Nomination of Officers : Messrs. Griffith, Rodgers and Martin.

On Place of Meeting : Mr. Osgoodby, Mrs. White and Miss Teller.

At 5:30 the convention adjourned until 7:30 P. M.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Mr. John H. Wilson, of Syracuse, extended an invitation to the members to take a drive around the city with him Friday afternoon.

The Smith-Premier Typewriter Company invited the convention to visit and inspect their works, in a body.

Both invitations were accepted with thanks.

Mr. George R. Bishop read the following paper presented by Mr. Edwin R. Gardiner, prefacing it as follows :

MR. BISHOP—I think the association ought to know something about Mr. Gardiner. He is now president of the New England Law Reporters' Association, and certainly one of its most worthy and accomplished members. I first met him at the meeting of that association at Nantasket, about five years ago ; was delighted with his companionship, and charmed with what he said, and with the paper he then read. It seemed to me I had made a noteworthy acquisition, in being able to place him on the list of my friends. Since that I have had considerable correspondence with him. It was very gratifying to me to have him express his satisfaction with the paper I wrote on Mr. Wyckoff last year—this expression coming from one of his fine taste and appreciation. Mr. Gardiner is a man of manifold accomplishments, outside of his acquisitions and attainments as a law stenographer. He is official stenographer of the supreme court of the state of Rhode Island, the Providence district, his residence being in that city. He is a graduate of Brown's University, of which my old friend George William Curtis was an honorary alumnus, and he has sympathized with that accomplished literateur and publicist in all that most distinguished him. I was talking recently with one of my old friends in New York, one who knows as much, from practical experience, of the higher court reporting as anyone anywhere ; who reports more patent arguments than any other man in this country—I refer to Mr. Frederick M. Adams—and I found that he, also, knew Mr. Gardiner, and had the same high appreciation of his qualities and abilities that I had.

I thought it only fair that I should make this statement before reading this paper of Mr. Gardiner's. I will now proceed with the reading of it.

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### **Some Educative Features of Court Reporting.**

BY EDWIN R. GARDINER, OF PROVIDENCE, R. I.

To get an intimate and interior view of that great realm of human affairs which concerns itself with the administration of justice, has been the lot of most of us. Whatever we may think of its methods or results, is a matter of little

consequence to any but ourselves ; but the workings of those methods are made vividly apparent to us every day of our lives. We are constant spectators and recorders of exciting trials. The most vital interests of fellow beings are often connected with them,—not only their property interests, but sometimes their liberty and their lives. With what endless stories and pictures do they fill our memories ! The experiences are sometimes amusing, sometimes pathetic and at times intensely tragic. No one, I think, obtains wider, more varied, more abundant views of the shifting panorama of life than the constant court reporter. Before no one's gaze are spread out more minutely and picturesquely the startling complications, the dramatic incidents, of which the world is full in our modern days and our modern cities. To read of them as tersely told by journalists is one thing. To be led, step by step, over the stage where they are enacted, and have the actors in living presence before us, and listen to the exposure of their heart secrets, as they are extorted by remorseless questioners, is far more real and impressive. Others may learn of trials casually and superficially. The reporter gets their essence and completeness. Legal examinations, beyond all things else, bring out the true inwardness of men's thoughts and actions, and set them before us clearly, minutely, exhaustively. A court is a magic mirror which reflects a thousand images of the world. It is an arena on which the passions are widely displayed and clothe themselves in aptest language. Attentive listeners there will get much knowledge of mankind. Each counsel familiarizes himself deeply with particular stories of particular clients. But each reporter familiarizes himself with all the stories of all the clients. Few chronicles of man yield stranger or more startling histories. Hence the life that forever traces them is flavorful and sensational. Courts open to us the realm of discord. They show how largely men are swayed by passion and perversity. Whatever in the social machine jars and jostles and antagonizes, we are perpetually called upon to scan. An endless world of follies, woes and crimes is continually passing in review before us. Numberless self-told biographies unfold the lessons of life and its fitful fever. Every stage of "this

strange, eventful history," from its inception to its close, is studied from living examples. The careers of thousands are related in our hearing, and tales of suffering and temptation most touchingly rehearsed. The oppositions and strifes that embitter men's lives are displayed in infinite variety. The tricks and snares that are forever spread abroad to entrap the unwary, are unmasked by shrewdest investigators. Homes are unroofed and the embroilments of domestic life laid bare. The skeleton of every family closet is brought here for exhibition and dissection. The details of every feud and vendetta are painfully recounted. Subtle schemes for the enrichment of the few and the robbery of the many are tracked through all their tortuosity. The determined purpose with which greed or hatred pursues its prey, makes us wonder at the baseness of our kind. "Every day's *report*" seems a report "of wrong and outrage." The mass and volume of this, ever forced upon our attention, discolors and sometimes fairly sickens the mind. When, as with the present writer, such endless rehearsals of contentions, misfortunes and misdeeds have been the daily food of a lifetime, one is almost impelled to hold, with Bryant, that the world is but a scene of woe and guile, and to say that he has

"Seen enough of all its sorrows, crimes and cares  
To tire him of it."

If society were here correctly pictured, we would say it was a jangle.

And yet it is not all of life or all of court doings that are thus darkly tintured. The extravagant episodes which they show us are often lugubrious, but they are as often diverting. Like any stage whereon the promiscuous public appears and a many-sided humanity enacts its parts, the effects are often as remarkable for their drollery as for their pathos. Weird plots and humorous complications excite perpetual interest. Stranger contretemps than ever playwright imagined, supply unfailing amusement. The courtroom is, moreover, the familiar home of the eccentric. Odd fishes disport themselves in these troubled waters. Queer specimens of humanity display all their queerness. Frequent Wellers and Wellerisms excite breezy laughter.

Strokes of Hibernian wit set decorum at defiance. ("Is your wife *joined* with you in the possession of your house," says the judge. "She's *jawin'* me there all the time, your honor," says the witness.) Originals and incorrigibles develop here their most amusing traits. Natural comedians make rare diversion from the witness stand. Novel exhibitions of character enliven the hours of sombre toil. There is a comedy side even to courts, and hundreds of graphic pens have amusingly depicted it. It is a field from which story-writers and dramatists have perhaps drawn material for sketches and caricatures more liberally than from any other. So striking a feature of the social system was not to be kept out of their pages. The strange phases of human nature it presented have tempted their portraying pencils. Literature, particularly the literature of fiction, abounds with attempted reproductions of court scenes. We have all laughed over them and delightedly recognized therein the counterparts of familiar characters and situations. It is indeed surprising how many writers in all ages have sought to amuse us by clever burlesques of courts. Notably among the ancients were Terence in his amusing play of "The Parasite," racy with the street-talk and colloquialisms of ancient Athens; Aristophanes in his comedy of "The Wasps," mirroring the judicial tribunals of the same city, and making sport of its litigious and court-enamored citizens; Lucilius in his epigrams; Lucan in his poems; Horace and Juvenal in their satires. It is curious to find in these long-ago pictures features not very dissimilar to what passes under our daily observation. Illustrious writers in every succeeding age have painted similar sketches. We find them at every period of literature to which we turn. With raciest humor does Cervantes depict the grave proceedings and still graver judgments of Sancho Panza when clothed with the judicial authority of his island realm. Racine and Molière and the great dramatists of many countries and of many languages have presented similar satires. When we come to the times of Elizabeth, in England, such matter becomes vastly abundant and entertaining. Among its dramatists, Massinger and Ford, Ben Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher, have plays whose plots are founded upon

court scenes. Law and courts have a large place in the plots of Shakespeare,—as could not fail to be the case with one who depicted every side of human life. Doubtless the most famous trial scene with which the world of literature presents us is that in “The Merchant of Venice,”—the legal incongruities of which must have given Bacon the nightmare if he ever sat out the play, still more if he ever created it. In Shakespeare’s drama of “King John” we have also delineated with much particularity a state trial, after the manner of ancient days. Belief in the certain triumph of justice has never found happier expression than in the noble lines :

“What stronger breastplate than a heart untainted !  
Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just.”

So from the promptings of nature, we fondly expect to find it. So perhaps we *do* find it,—at least in the realms of poetry and fiction. In “Measure for Measure,” “Othello,” “Henry Sixth,” “King Lear,” “Taming the Shrew” and other plays, there are legal references and maxims oft quoted through the succeeding centuries. Neither are Dogberry and Justice Shallow to be forgotten. Fielding and Smollett, and Sterne and Cowper, and Lever and Sheridan, and Miss Edgeworth and Jane Taylor, have also references of the same sort, which depict legal proceedings in a real or fanciful manner. Fuller, Addison, Johnson and Burke have dissertations upon the subject. Swift, in “Gulliver’s Travels,” has two very caustic satires upon the courts of his time. The scandal suit in Byron’s “Don Juan” helps immortalize one of the notabilities of our own craft in the following stanza :

“If you would like to see the whole proceedings,  
The depositions and the cause at full,  
The names of all the witnesses, the pleadings,  
Of counsel to nonsuit, or to annul,  
There’s more than one edition, and the readings  
Are various, but they none of them are dull :  
The best is that in shorthand, ta’en by Gurney,  
Who to Madrid on purpose made a journey.”

Coming down to a more modern epoch, “Cox’s Diary,” by Thackery, has a comic sketch of court pleadings and arguments. “Ten Thousand a Year,” by Warren, “Ways of the Hour,” by Cooper, have pointed recitals of the same



nature. Charles Lamb has racy talks concerning the "Old Benchers of the Inner Temple," and speaks of a new-fledged attorney who gleefully announced his first retainer by quoting Pope's line "Thou first great cause, least understood." Irving tells of Wouter Von Twiller, who decided a suit on book account, not by balancing the books but by counting the leaves. Cormenin in a French court-sketch laughs at attorneys who think they are "making an effect, when they are only making a noise." There seems to be hardly a great novelist who has not in some part of his works attempted to paint a trial. Frequenters and students of such proceedings will find it especially interesting to trace out the list. Scott, in the opening chapters of "Redgauntlet," has a very entertaining picture of a Scottish eighteenth-century trial, and of its consultations and pleadings, methods and formalities. Peebles *vs.* Plainstones, (a sort of ancestor of Jarndyce *vs.* Jarndyce), is an entertaining narration.\* It is drawn with a close study of actual life, and faithfully mirrors much of the doings of the legal and judicial world. A touching piece of court romance also gives tragic interest to "The Heart of Midlothian." In the first part of "Les Misérables," Victor Hugo gives a wonderful picture of a French criminal trial and of its personnel, pleas and proceedings. It furnishes material for perhaps the most startling and sensational episode of the magnificent story. Charles Reade's pathetic and deftly-told tale of "Griffith Gaunt" contains as realistic and natural a report of a capital trial as is to be found in fiction. It seems as if the book were written on purpose to display it, as a piece of literary workmanship. It will stir the blood of even those most familiar with such exciting dramas. It paints a grand field-day at the assizes, like those of which all of us have often formed a part. The concluding portion of "Very Hard Cash," by the same author, also furnishes appetizing reading to one of our profession. In a masterly way it depicts all the steps and stages, mazes and complexities, manœuvres and shifting fortunes of a fiercely contested trial. Those

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\*To which may be added "The Leavenworth Case," by Anna Katherine Greene, and "The Dead Alive," by Wilkie Collins, which was based upon the celebrated Boorn trial in Vermont some fifty years ago.—PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

who have long made a study of such proceedings, from an interior standpoint, will find in it a deal of vastly familiar scenery. As a reflection of real life, the report is most graphic and entertaining. If you have not read it, you have congenial pastime awaiting you.

Whittier's poems have one or two very charming little court pictures. Outram's "Legal Lyrics" are filled with burlesques of Scottish courts. In a recent novel called "The affair at Islington," by Matthew White, Jr., we have an admirable history of an exciting murder trial. In following its fortunes we find ourselves treading very familiar ground. In Browning's "The Ring and the Book" a large portion of one volume is devoted to the relation of an Italian capital trial, curious in method, entertaining in incident, grand in the reasonings of its participants. The novels of Dickens are especially rich in this kind of portraiture. In the persons of more than a score of precious eccentricities he has paid his respects to the legal fraternity. Clearly drawn pictures! Masterly delineations! Delightful and indestructible memories! Nobody but a court stenographer or habitué will ever get the full sense of their drollery,—Tulkinghorn and his family secrets; Traddles and his shorthand dictations; Dodson and Fogg, Spenslow and Jorkins, Wrayburn and Lightwood, Kenge and Carboy, Garland and Guppy, Pell and Perker, Wemick and Witherden, and a dozen others that used to people the brains of half the world. The immortal "Pickwick Trial," of course, overtops them all in its delicious humor. Dickens, the master delineator and tireless searcher-out of quaint specimens of human nature, fortunately did not neglect so rich a field. He seems to have early discovered the fact that counsellors and court characters had a great deal of human nature in them,—“as well as the rest of mankind.” He has “hit off” the eccentricities of lawyers and clients and the vulnerable points of court systems as no other writer has done. The raciness and fun of his inimitable sketches find in our craft, perhaps, a greater keenness of appreciation than in any other. There is a realism about Dickens' court scenes that other novelists have not attained. This, doubtless, is due to his youthful experiences as a reporter and to

the general accuracy of his observing power. The gross blunders of routine and circumstance that many others exhibit would seem to indicate that *they* had never sat out a real trial. While diverting and picturesque they are often found grossly inaccurate and make us laugh quite as much at their absurdity as at their humor. The machinery is of a kind that would never run, and the imagined conditions are quite different from the real. Ruffians and felons, on trial, are quite too apt to interrupt the court with polished addresses, conceived with all the art of an accomplished pleader. In Tupper's "Crock of Gold," for instance, the criminal, after being arraigned for both robbery and murder on the same indictment, is proceeding to argue his case with rare eloquence, when a volunteer witness bursts into the room, knocks over the sheriffs, assumes control of the proceedings, silences the judge and displaces the prisoner with a new defendant, who is convicted and sentenced on the spot! Work rather more rapid, I dare say, than most of us are accustomed to observe.

A large volume might be filled with illustrations of the humorous mistakes which literary men have often made in their imaginary court scenes. They usually invent a system which would fall to pieces the first time it was tried, and fill it out with incidents that would make any judicial officer collapse with astonishment if he should see them actually occur in an actual court room. Very rarely are such descriptions correctly realistic. Generally they are grotesque and impossible. But they serve to entertain the average reader, perhaps, just as well, and serve the purposes of a sensational plot much better. Stage representations are generally quite as absurd and farcical. One of our judges who should perchance attend the theatre might almost be expected to faint with fright at the irregularities of procedure in a stage-imitated court. Such travesties are even more frequent in modern histrionism than in that of half a century ago.

Judicial proceedings are objects of curious study to the public, of piquant comment by the press, and of solemn interest to the litigant. To the necessarily constant attendant they prove a useful school of affairs,—a school of the most

practical sort. The education of a court listener becomes a multifarious one. He gains valuable knowledge on a vast multitude of matters otherwise little understood. In few places does one get the benefit of a scrutiny so thorough on so many kinds of subjects. Where else are so many experts called upon to freely dispense their stores of knowledge? Chemists, microscopists, electricians, anatomists, and the most skilled professors of every science, are brought forward to enlighten juries, and incidentally court attendants. Where else, under solemn sanctions, do so many trained minds focalize their powers for the elucidation of matters at once minute and momentous? The great business concerns and complications of great cities, also, are exemplified in courts as we seldom elsewhere find them. I have never met a court reporter who was not exceptionally well posted on such matters. Well and truly does Charles A. Dana say of reporters, as he had known them, that as a class they were "trained and accomplished men (or women), familiar with every phase of life, prepared for their peculiar duties by large observation in special departments to which others have no access; men of extraordinary intelligence, knowing the world well, able to see through any deception however adroitly set up." Jurists and advocates have often publicly expressed encomiums quite as strong. It is that special sort of education which our work supplies, that has justified these frequent tributes. In the course of years the methods and conduct of almost every institution in society comes up before us for review, discussion and correction. Its secrets are told, its workings explained, and the policy that guides it is made the subject of severest examination.

It is indeed a strange and phenomenal world into which our calling and the need of its services has admitted us. A calling laborious, perhaps, beyond the common lot,—at times, it would seem, almost to the point of martyrdom,—it is by many esteemed a lot of unrelieved drudgery. But that drudgery concerns itself with matters of a very instructive character,—subtle, complex and of supreme importance to mankind. It has large compensations in the opening up to us of peculiar sources of knowledge. It illustrates to our apprehension matters novel, weighty and

of absorbing interest. And these matters are subjected to the most absolute and certain of all tests. They are sifted to the bottom, winnowed of chaff and falsehood, and the golden grain of truth extracted by processes peculiar and inexorable. A court of justice is a mill which grinds its matters so fine as to leave nothing but the pure residuum of sound conclusions and certain facts. It tears every story to pieces, in order to test its quality and fabric. The ultimate truth is beaten out of it by the remorseless, never-ceasing threshings which it receives. The ground is pulverized till every atom is laid open to the sunlight and all possible hiding-places of error broken up. Great cross-examiners are great pulverizers. The Mr. Jaggers, of whom Dickens' "Great Expectations" tells, was the type of a class familiar to us all. We remember that he seemed to pulverize not only the subject of controversy but the very arena itself and everything within it. That process we have often seen gone through with in courts, by men of similar powers. Fearful indeed to fall into the hands of such men! Their tender mercies with a stubborn witness are more than cruel. They tirelessly ply the flail and the hammer and the scourge, and they ply them with telling effect. Some chance question of theirs, out of a thousand, tears off the mask of concealment, pricks the bubble of pretension, penetrates to the core of the matter and shows its true inwardness and solution. Emerson gives a most practical and philosophical conclusion concerning courts when he says: "In the examination of witnesses there usually leap out, quite unexpectedly, three or four stubborn words or phrases, which are the pith and fate of the whole business,—which sink into the ears of all parties, stick there, and determine the cause. All the rest is repetition and qualifying. The court and the country have really come together to arrive at these memorable expressions, which betrayed the mind and the meaning of somebody." "It is to seize and perpetuate these stubborn phrases," these "memorable expressions," that the phonographic report is largely useful.

Another great educative feature of this kind of work is the continual unfolding before us of novel and intricate mechanical devices. We constantly hear the most difficult

mechanical questions discussed by the best science of the day. Where else does one get the disclosures of so many kinds of specialists? In infringement and damage suits mechanism of the most interesting nature is exhaustively explained by skilled masters. A confusion of incongruous parts is changed before our eyes into a harmonious whole, with unity of plan and beauty of adaptation. Many sealed books are opened and many subtle matters delicately analyzed. With this elaborate dissection perpetually going on before us, it would be strange if we did not learn much about hidden processes and methods in modern mechanism.

All of us can bear abundant testimony regarding the many departments of mechanics with which court work has brought us in contact. Into a single personal experience there have chanced to enter rarely complete explanations of the history and theory of sugar refining, nickel plating, the construction of fire-engines, Corliss engines, hydraulic machines, Bessemer steel, repeating fire-arms, compressed-air drills, air-brakes, chromos, aniline dyes, multifarious electrical apparatus, bicycles, optical instruments, organs, telephones, various surgical appliances,—besides a long catalogue of presumably less mechanical products of fertile, toiling brains,—including, in copyright cases, plays, poems, novels and operas. The minuteness of these explanations is shown by the fact that thousands of pages have sometimes been covered in a single instance. In what other way could so much have been elicited about these inventions as by the exhaustive siftings and sharp contentions of a courtroom. The concentrated efforts of the keenest minds and the application of every resource the world could supply, has aided the elucidation. Truth, at any cost, has been the only thing considered. Money has been expended without stint. How true the aphorism, that while Jews lavish wealth upon their Passovers and Moors upon their marriages, Americans more frequently lavish it upon their lawsuits!

Again, in regard to pathological science. I doubt if any one has put before him more frequent and elaborate statements of the anatomical details and most modern treatment of all kinds of diseases and casualties. Years of such court

explanations carry one through almost every department of physiology. Every bone and joint and muscle and organ of the body is described and illustrated in accident cases,—the number and variety of which seem almost unlimited. Endless examples teach how broad is the realm of mischance, and make us specially cautious lest we unguardedly tread within it. To get the special instructions of great medical scientists, the court-room, in our day, is often better than the lecture-room, and the knowledge there obtained of fully as practical a nature. Court reporting is a never-ceasing education in medical knowledge. The laws of life and health are unfolded before us, and we become students of those things which most concern our physical welfare. Whatever personal ailment we or those near to us may have, we are sure, in time, to learn from the witness-stand all that the medical faculty can tell about it.

In commercial litigation, too, the secrets of great businesses are continually told in the court-reporter's ear. Statistics appear concerning the products of every clime. Commodities, the very names of which are known to few, are made the subjects of endless discussion. Their classifications and methods of production are related, and all their grades and varieties fully shown. The very latest products of toil and skill are explained in their minutest details. In regular procession there come up for review the countless beneficial activities of men—

*"Men our brothers, men the workers, e'er contriving something new."*

The testimony, in court, of men of the largest experience which the community can supply, as to the values of estates and merchandise, embodies practical information which the business mind prizes and stores away. Upon important financial questions, doubtful and difficult of solution, the court-reporter's desk is often the place of all others to receive enlightenment. Long accustomed to forming conclusions upon exact and official statements, he acquires the habit of being content with none other.

"In the trial of causes," says Choate's biographer, "there is required, not only a knowledge of the law, but a knowledge of the arts, industries and sciences of the world. Beyond all this, there is also a field provided for the use of

every variety of knowledge that can be gathered by the most diligent student." The truth of this statement who can question? Of the wealth, then, of these accumulations by the members of another profession, we cannot, from the nature of our relations to it, fail to be large receivers. The yield of this bountiful preparation it is our daily privilege to enjoy and to assimilate.

One great lesson which a life-long court attendance imparts is that of wariness in forming one's opinions about controverted matters. *Audi alteram partem*,—faithfully hear both sides before you judge. A plausible tale, unsupported by evidence of its truth, too often gains undeserved credence and sympathy. If complaints of alleged wrongs and injustices accompany it, one is apt to be too hastily impelled to action. The discipline of constant court attendance makes one cautious of accepting *ex parte* and unsupported testimony. It trains one to hear all sides, and nicely balance conflicting views and statements.

Again, familiarity with court work teaches the value of a clear and careful use of language,—of an exact terminology, of a vocabulary admitting the greatest nicety and precision of statement,—which expresses everything and expresses it with clearness, certainty and dignity. The advantages of this become so manifest that the lesson is deeply planted in the mind and impels one to the study and practice of like qualities of expression.

By no means the least of the educative features of court reporting is the constant attention which we are constrained to give to the highest exertions of the human intellect and to the best eloquence of our day and country. Those who have heard Gaston champion the cause of the oppressed, or Thomas defend rights of property, or Curtis or Keller or Thurston or Gifford unravel the subtleties of patent suits, or Storey or Brady or Field or Bartlett clear up the intricacies of a much befogged and exceptionally complicated litigation, will have found a vast mental benefit from the contemplation and study of such grand powers in exercise. A weighty issue, involving the most vital interests of clients, hotly contested by advocates of the highest talent, affords a striking and impressive display of the noblest energies of the



mind, and calls forth exhibitions of practical eloquence not elsewhere to be heard. It is the eloquence that sways and moves and prevails,—eloquence directed to the most beneficent objects, and whose victories embody the most substantial results. I think it is Everett who says that “of all the exercises of the human intellect, of the highest order, for any purpose, there are few that so generally perish for want of a contemporary record as those that are daily exerted in the courts of law.” It is our province to supply the “contemporary record,” which in former generations was not so readily obtained. And in doing so we are constant observers of these great exhibitions,—of the best efforts of the greatest advocates and pleaders. There is a robustness about the eloquence of the bar which is not elsewhere found. It is the best possible school for the development of such a quality. Here are great subjects, great occasions, men of the grandest powers. The listening to their productions is improving to all and especially to those who perpetuate them by their skill. It is a sufficient reward for the toils that we undergo that we are brought so closely into contact with the great masters of debate. We have peculiar opportunities to study the forensic traits and talents of the great advocates of our time. It is an education to have them constantly speaking in our presence. The bench and the bar, no less than the pulpit and the rostrum, ever supply natural teachers, who impart lessons of wisdom and philosophy.

The style of speaking at the bar seems to me to have greatly changed within the last forty years,—as the style of all public speaking undoubtedly has done. It has become less ornate and more incisive. Sound and sober argument, clear analysis of testimony, chaste and unimpassioned language, are its means of reaching the understanding and influencing the judgment. Rhetorical display has been largely discarded, as unsuited to modern exigencies. Pleas have become more business-like. “Facts and figures, not flowers of fancy, are now the factors of discussion.”

A modern writer (in the justice of whose observations I think we shall all concur), says of eloquence at the bar that “The loftiest reaches of thought are seldom requisite. It

is only in cases of peculiar difficulty and distress that the advocate finds an opening for the highest efforts of *impassioned* eloquence. His scene is the *practical* world. His objects are temporal. Matter-of-fact details of legal proceedings necessarily preclude those touching appeals in which lie the sweetest strains that come from the heart. And yet, dry and barren as are the subjects of an advocate's exertion, instances are not rare in which nearly all the soul can feel or the mind appreciate are to be found in the words of distinguished pleaders."

Governor Boutwell says of Rufus Choate's argument in a great capital trial, that "for two full days he went on, analyzing evidence, crushing adverse witnesses, denying the guilt of his client, with a splendor of diction to which the present generation of court-room habitués are total strangers." So far as the "splendor of diction" is concerned, I think we have long been strangers to it. Glowing periods, splendid imagery, brilliant metaphors, highly-wrought sentences, classical and poetical quotations, are less often heard in pleas than formerly. Even men of oratorical genius are wary of introducing them. The striking examples of such studied and elaborate display before juries, which we so enthusiastically recall, seem to belong to a far-off time. They are curiosities of the past. Would that more of them had been preserved by our phonographic art. They would have proved most delightful reading in our day. Through the absence of the shorthand writer we have lost priceless memorials of the great periods of English and American eloquence, in this as in every other department.

These observations concerning courts and the lessons they teach might be indefinitely extended. I have only touched upon salient matters, most readily appreciable by all. Perpetual contact with *every* great department of the world's business is, of course, instructive and disciplinary: but it seems to me that *here* is a department not easily excelled for the great *variety* of information which it supplies. It will not be necessary to add, that some knowledge of the principles of the law would naturally be gathered, in forever

listening to the charges of learned judges and the expositions of able counsel.

I have chosen to speak of these matters because on former occasions I have considered almost every other aspect and relation of our employment. The urgent invitation of your Secretary left me no choice but to speak of some one of them. The statements I have made will, I doubt not, find full confirmation in the experience of such enthusiastic experts as I address. Our art is every way an educative one to all who follow it. And I would say, in closing, that its practical utility has, in a generation, vindicated itself before the world to an extent which its earlier disciples could little have foreseen. It has shown an adaptation to the purposes of life and business which was at first little suspected. It is helping forward the world's work to a degree that can scarcely be estimated, and its aid is constantly being more and more invoked. The few who remain to speak slightly of it show their ignorance most glaringly in the light of its more modern successes and achievements. One who began its study in the '40's, and since the early '50's has devoted nearly every day to its practical use, may be excused some impatience with any who may yet presume to question its value or practicability. How many such we all used to encounter in times we painfully recall! Like many of the most valuable gifts of genius to mankind, its earliest reception by society was an ungenerous one. Those who in a former day sought to show its usefulness, were often constrained to feel and to say with the poet:

"Truths would you tell to ease the o'er burdened hand,  
"All shun, none aid you, and few understand."

It was in many places caviled at, discouraged and despised. They told us that what it proposed was foolish, useless, impossible. The bar and the bench would have none of it. They would never accept its records as legal and authoritative. Verbatim reports were said in many places to be but sources of inconvenience and confusion. The barest recollections of counsel were often received in preference. But the power of prejudice has been pretty generally overcome.

when he constantly witnesses the uncovering of the tricks and sharp practices of men generally looked upon as honest and respectable, in their rush after wealth ; when he sees all that is base and dishonorable in man's nature brought to light and minutely exposed by this skilful searching process so graphically described by Mr. Gardiner,—his views of the world, be they ever so bright and sunny, will soon be changed to those of suspicion and distrust, unless counteracted and warded off in some way. Wholesome and cheery books should constantly be read by the reporter ; for instance, such books as Mr. Gardiner has referred to as presenting the humorous phases of court proceedings ; and his recreation should be such as will dispel these gloomy misgivings, and make him feel that the world is not so bad as the constantly shifting court scenes would indicate. I know one judge who reads the most trashy novels published, in order that the excitement may relieve his mind from his cases. Perhaps it would be well for the reporter to look upon the whole business as a huge joke, and to look upon the court-room as a theatre in which roaring farces are constantly being enacted. In "Bleak House," Dickens speaks of the law as a game of chess : "Ah, cousin !" said Richard. "Strange, indeed ! All this wasteful wanton chess-playing *is* very strange. To see the composed court yesterday jogging on so serenely, and to think of the wretchedness of the pieces on the board, gave me the headache and the heartache, both together. My head ached with wondering how it happened if men were neither fools nor rascals ; and my heart ached to think they could possibly be either." But as we would be without occupation if all men were honest and just, let us counteract the bad influences as best we can ; be as cheerful as possible, and rub our hands together and exclaim, with Sampson Brass, "It's a pleasant world we live in, sir,—a very pleasant world. There are bad people in it, Mr. Richard, but if there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers." And I might add : nor any court reporters.

THE PRESIDENT—Mr. Hitchcock, of Minnesota, is with us, and we would be glad to hear from him regarding the stenographic art in his state.

MR. HITCHCOCK—*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :* I do not know that I can say much to entertain or enlighten you. In regard to shorthand affairs in Minnesota, we have in our state a district court, which is a trial court of practically the same jurisdiction as the Supreme Court of New York. We have no County Courts, as you have here. There are six District Judges in each of the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, in Duluth three, in one or two of the country districts two, and in the remainder of the state one judge in each district. Stenographers are employed in all the districts. In the state at large, outside of the Twin Cities, they act under the general law which fixes their compensation at ten dollars per day and fifteen cents a folio for transcripts. The law reads that the *per diem* shall be fixed by the judge and shall "not exceed ten dollars per day," and in one instance the judge has fixed the *per diem* at eight dollars per day, and holds court about fourteen hours at that ; and if he can possibly finish up the business by holding an evening session Friday night, he adjourns court on that day and the stenographer has the privilege of going home on Saturday, receiving pay but for five days. This is a sop thrown to the granger element,—the Populists, we call them,—whereby the judge makes himself solid as a man who is trying to save the county all the money he can—at someone else's expense,—thereby rendering his chances for re-election much better, and as it costs him nothing, it is a good card. I am glad to say that we have but one judge of this stripe. Most of them appreciate the services of their stenographers, and treat them as white men should be treated.

In the city of St. Paul, under a special act, there is but one official stenographer, Mr. G. N. Hillman, whom I think some of you know, at least by reputation. He receives a salary of ten thousand dollars a year, and ten cents per folio for transcripts, and employs five assistants, paying them out of his salary. The Municipal Court of St. Paul also has a stenographer, at a salary, I think, of twelve hundred dollars.

In Minneapolis, likewise by special act, there are six officials in the District Court, and one in the Municipal,

each receiving a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum, and ten cents for transcripts.

We have no State Association. Some effort has been made towards such organization, but it seems to be a very difficult matter to arouse any interest in it. We have tried to get together two or three times, but there were not enough of us to fill the offices, consequently the scheme was abandoned.

Many of the country districts are sparsely settled, the litigation of a trivial character, and the stenographer's compensation does not amount to enough to make it much of an inducement for first-class men.

We are beginning to feel the effect of politics somewhat in the matter of appointments. Up to within two or three years politics cut no figure, and appointments were made on the merits of the applicant; but in recent years two or three appointments have been made without regard to the competency of the party, and merely to pay off a political debt. In one instance the man appointed was notoriously incompetent, but as he holds his position at the pleasure of the judge, nothing can be done. The majority of the men in the profession, however, are competent and well qualified to fill the positions they occupy. I think there are one or two ladies holding official positions,—one at least, and I understand she gives fairly good satisfaction.

We do not receive the salary we should, but do not think it advisable, under the present conditions, to attempt to secure an increase. Our legislature is composed mostly of grangers, and they look upon a man who receives fifteen hundred dollars a year as a sort of Vanderbilt, and it is dangerous to fool with a Minnesota Granger. He is always "loaded," if any question of increase of salary is involved. In the neighboring state of Iowa the officials receive five dollars per day, and five cents a folio, and pay their own traveling expenses. None of them is a "plutocrat," so far as I have heard. In Nebraska, except in the city of Omaha, the same state of affairs exists. In Omaha they receive fifteen hundred dollars a year, and five cents a folio for transcripts. In Wisconsin they have a law fixing the salaries of officials at two thousand dollars a year, including tran-

scripts, except in the city of Milwaukee, where I believe they receive two thousand dollars a year and six cents for transcripts. Consequently, if we should go to the legislature with a bill for an increase of compensation, the question of the amount paid for similar services in neighboring states would undoubtedly be dug up by some industrious Populist, and the chances are we not only would not get the raise, but would probably be cut down to correspond with the frugal ideas of the "honest farmer," who wants some ammunition to fire at his constituents in the line of a reduction in someone's salary other than his own, (he never cuts that,) so that he may be returned to the next legislature as a great friend of the "common people." We have, therefore, concluded to let them alone, if they will do the same by us.

There have been two or three bills introduced by members of the legislature from outside districts looking to the reduction of the folio rate from fifteen cents to ten, and fixing the price of carbon copies at five cents. In some of these outside districts the officials have been charging, very indiscreetly I think, not only fifteen cents for the original, but fifteen cents for each carbon. In the country, where these cases involve but a small amount, such a rate is very burdensome. So far these bills have been allowed to sleep in committee. But whenever the legislature meets, which, fortunately, is only once in two years, we expect to be offered up as a sacrifice to the constituents of the members from the rural districts, and our positions filled by girls at two dollars and a half a week.

I think this sums up the stenographic situation in Minnesota.

MR. BISHOP—The remarks made by our friend Hitchcock—which seem to me important, inasmuch as we especially desire to know what the stenographic situation is everywhere throughout the country, and especially in states in which legislation has been had looking to the establishment of a system of reporting of cases by official stenographers—are quite suggestive of an address delivered at one of our meetings more than a dozen years ago by Mr. Tilley, of Kansas City, long one of our honorary members,

but now deceased. I understand he was on the Missouri side, not the Kansas side, of the river ; but I fear not much could be said in favor of Kansas legislation as compared with that of the state of Missouri, which latter he criticized. A few years ago the Hon. John J. Ingalls, formerly U. S. Senator from Kansas, had an account, in Harper's *Magazine*, of his state, which painted that trans-Missouri Commonwealth, in its physical aspects and developments, and its people in respect to all the higher developments, in a way to throw discredit on any imputation that could possibly be made concerning their intelligence, or their disposition to deal unfairly or unjustly with any class of their citizens ; but I apprehend that this sketch, like so many other pieces of fine writing which the magazines contain, was very highly idealized, and that Mr. Tilley's remarks were correct, in the main, and would truthfully apply both to the state of Missouri and to the state of Kansas. I never saw Mr. Tilley after that 1883 meeting ; but if the newspapers were correct, Mr. Tilley contributed, by becoming involved in litigations on stenographic matters, to the broadening of knowledge on matters stenographic. Now, any factor of civilization does, as we know, attain additional dignity and importance when it becomes a subject of thought and adjudication on the part of our courts, through the instituting of litigations arising in the course of its ordinary progress. The general profession may appreciate this more highly than do those stenographers who feel called upon to bring their controversies into court ; for it has been my experience that the damages awarded us by the courts cannot always be collected. Still, Mr. Tilley's litigation had, as I understand, a somewhat different scope ; and I think we may well remember him with a sense of obligation, because of these matters and of the ability which he was understood to exhibit in the practice of his profession in a region in which, as to stenography, he was a pioneer. Our Minneapolis friend does not indicate to us enough to enable us to form a very complete judgment on the situation which he complains of ; but one or two of the statements enable us to get an inkling of what may be an element of embarrassment. It is not clear to my mind whether the courts in



which the rates of compensation which he cites prevail, are analogous to our Supreme Court, or to merely our district or subordinate civil courts ; in which latter, as we all know, the rates of compensation and the opportunities for emolument are decidedly less advantageous for our own stenographers than they are in the higher courts. He speaks of six judges administering the law, judicially, in one county, and a less number in other counties. If they rank with our Supreme Court justices, the counties in which the larger numbers serve must be very well provided, in that respect. It has been understood that Mr. Lyons, late of Minneapolis, now deceased, a large roll of whose most artistic appearing notes Mr. Hitchcock himself once exhibited to us, made quite a modest fortune in the business in Minneapolis. Whether he did it by performing special outside work in which the limitations of official court rates were escaped, I do not know. Outside of the petty devices described as characteristic of the Minnesota judges in order to "beat" the stenographer, it does not strike me as a serious cutting down of compensation, taking into consideration the cost of living and general expenses, to make the rates ten or even eight dollars per day for taking notes, and 15 cents per folio for transcripts, provided the duplicates are abundant enough, at rates that are adequate. The per diem for taking the notes averages, of course, greater in New York ; but in some of our judicial districts the folio rates are less than 15 cents. If a stenographer in Minnesota takes 300 folios per day—and if the days are as long as Mr. Hitchcock implies, the average should be considerably greater—his *folio* compensation will be \$45 ; and if his per diem compensation will pay his amanuensis bill for getting out this transcription, he will have his \$45 clear, except as to hotel and traveling expenses if the court is sitting away from his place of residence. Then, if he has duplicate copies to furnish, he has another resource. We of course have no intimation concerning the frequency of ordering transcripts, or of the proportion of duplicates to original transcripts furnished ; but the showing might be worse, for the official practitioner, than the remarks we have listened to give evidence of. We know they have had some brilliant shorthand men in Minne-

sota ; we know that our friend Hitchcock stands high in our profession ;—and it occurs to me, that along with this distinguished ability, our friends in that commonwealth may have become very ambitious, or inordinately covetous of wealth ;—that they have not yet learned the useful lesson which our own New York stenographers have so well learned, —that a *modest* competency ought to satisfy gentlemen who carry so much of wisdom, philosophy and virtue under their waistcoats. I am not going to be personal on this last point ;—and I could hardly mention certain places,—such as Rochester, Elmira, Binghamton, Buffalo, to go no farther —without seeming to draw attention to gentlemen who possess these qualities in such marked degree that it would make them blush to hear merely their places of habitation alluded to ! Then, if there is one stenographer in Minnesota who gets a salary, for taking notes, of ten thousand dollars, to be divided up among five officials, or five writers—himself and four others—in a city in which there ought to be so much of heavy litigation, necessitating the ordering of many transcripts for purposes of appeal, and the transcription rates in that district are fifteen cents, I do not see but that the official there is in as satisfactory a situation as are most of our Supreme Court officials here. Should the “free coinage of silver at 16 to 1” delusion prevail,\* along with the anarchistic sentiments which I fear our friend in Denver, whose letter we have read, may have learned to tolerate along with the other heresy,—we cannot tell to what point of destitution we may all come ;—for it has been demonstrated, that while inflation, and reducing our standard of money value, will inevitably and rapidly augment the price of all we have to purchase the process of *raising salaries and rates of compensation of labor*, professional or other, is *exceedingly low*, and is never commensurate with the increase in the price of necessary purchasable commodities ; but we hope and believe, that that calamity is very far off, and that there are not many, at least among ourselves, who are so feeble of comprehension, or so pliable and subservient to the influence of attractive personalities, as to permit them to cease to think for themselves, or to take the opinion of any

\*Died November 3, 1896.—PUB. COM.

one, however good a fellow he may be, on a matter so vitally affecting their interests, to say nothing of the matter of honor and common honesty so deeply touched by this question.

I desire, personally, to express my thanks to the speaker who has last addressed us. We are very grateful—or ought to be—to those who take these long journeys in order to be with us, and who bring to us accurate reports of the conditions under which our brethren in other parts of our far-stretching republic labor. I have merely tried to analyze, briefly, two or three of the data stated, in order to determine *if* the situation is really quite as bad in Minnesota as our friend implies and as no doubt he feels it to be. Should there be conditions there that need to be remedied, perhaps the anticipated settlement of troublesome national questions in a wise and honest way, may contribute to the bringing in of an era of affluence and stirring business life, in the midst of which all these injustices and inequalities may be rectified through the efforts of our friends with the legislators who have the determination of these matters.

THE PRESIDENT—We should be pleased to hear from Mr. Head, of Towanda, Pa., who is present with us, in regard to the status of shorthand in the Keystone State.

MR. HEAD—*Mr. President, and fellow-stenographers:* I did not come here to talk, but rather to listen and to learn from those who are older and wiser and more experienced than myself. It has long been my desire to attend a meeting of this association, especially since you paid me the compliment, some years ago, of placing my name upon your honorary list, but it has never before been possible for me to gratify that desire. I can assure you that I have been both pleased and instructed by listening to your proceedings, composed, as your association is, of some of the ablest, the most experienced and the best known official stenographers on this continent. The names of those who have taken part in its proceedings are familiar, or ought to be familiar, to every law reporter in America.

As to the status of the profession in Pennsylvania I can only speak of that branch of it which pertains to official court reporting, and judging from the remarks of Mr.

Hitchcock it would seem that the laws now in force in Pennsylvania in regard to official court reporting are very similar to those of Minnesota. About the first legislation that we had authorizing the appointment of official court stenographers in Pennsylvania was in 1866, being a special act applying only to certain courts in Philadelphia. During the succeeding five or six years several other special acts were passed, but they were of very limited application, and few appointments were made under them. The first general act was passed in 1873, and authorized the several courts of the State in their discretion to appoint official stenographers ; fixing the compensation at ten dollars per day for time actually spent in court, and the very liberal sum of fifty cents per folio for transcripts. An amusing anecdote is related in regard to the fixing of the price for transcripts in this bill. It is related that there was a certain member of the committee which had the bill under consideration, who had grown suddenly rich in oil speculations and consequently felt very liberal towards everybody. When the bill was being considered by the committee, the ten dollars per day struck him as being about right, but when the fifteen cents per folio was reached his generous nature revolted at such a niggardly sum, and he exclaimed, with an air of great dignity and injured pride, " Oh, h—! I ain't no fifteen cent man, make it fifty cents ;" whereupon the sum was promptly changed by the committee from fifteen cents to fifty cents ; and as no member of the legislature seemed to understand what fifty cents per folio meant in actual practice, the bill actually became a law, in that form. I believe, however, that no stenographer ever had the hardihood or indiscretion to charge the full amount authorized by this bill for transcripts.

As this bill, however, was not mandatory, but only permissive, and as the system of official reporting was not in very great favor at that time, but few appointments were ever made under its provisions ; and in 1876 another general law was passed, making it obligatory on all the civil courts of the state to appoint official stenographers upon the written request of two-thirds of the members of the bar of their districts, and fixing the compensation at ten dollars per day

and a sum for transcripts not to exceed fifteen cents per folio ; but limiting the amount to be paid in any one county to \$1,200 per year. Afterwards the \$1,200 clause was adjudicated to apply only to the *per diem*, and not to limit the compensation to be received for transcripts. Under this act nearly all the courts of Pennsylvania, except those of the city of Philadelphia, were supplied with official stenographers. In 1887 this act was revised and enlarged so as to define more clearly the duties and responsibilities of official stenographers, and making their employment compulsory in all the civil courts of the state ; the compensation remaining at ten dollars per day for time actually spent in court, and a sum not to exceed fifteen cents per folio for transcripts,—all of which was to be paid by the county where the work was done. Under that act all the courts of the state have been supplied with stenographers, though, strange as it may appear, the courts of Philadelphia were the last to comply with the law. This fact may be accounted for partly through the great conservatism of that sleepy city, and partly from the fact that the appointment of official reporters was opposed by some of the leading stenographers of the city, for the reason that they imagined that they could make more money by reporting special cases by special contract, than if the court reporting were all done by official reporters at rates fixed by law. It was not until some of the leading lawyers of the city threatened to begin legal proceedings to compel compliance with the law, that the judges of Philadelphia finally yielded to the march of progress, and appointed official stenographers for the city courts.

I believe that the system of official court reporting is now looked upon with great favor by both bench and bar throughout the state ; and to the credit and honor of our judges it can also be said that up to the present time they have not permitted themselves to be influenced by politics in making appointments. The office of official stenographer, so far as I have any knowledge, is considered a non-partisan office, and there are many stenographers in the state who have held their positions continuously since the first enactment of the law in 1876. It is, however, a source of

great regret that the official stenographers of the Keystone State have never yet been able to maintain an association for any length of time, though several attempts have been made to do so.

At 10 p. m., the convention adjourned to 10 o'clock the following morning.

### MORNING SESSION.

The President called the convention to order, with an unusually large attendance for the second day and last session of the convention.

The committee upon nominations of officers reported the following names of persons as officers for the ensuing year :

President—ROBERT R. LAW.

Vice-President—PETER P. McLOUGHLIN.

Secretary-Treasurer—KENDRICK C. HILL.

Librarian—M. JEANETTE BALLANTYNE.

Executive Committee—GEORGE H. THORNTON, WILLIAM LOEB, JR., JOHN H. WILSON, WM. W. OSGOODBY, MRS. CLARA A. WHITE.

Mr. Beach moved that the report be accepted and placed on file ; and further moved that the secretary cast the ballot of the convention for the persons named for the respective offices; which was carried, and the secretary cast the ballot and they were declared duly elected.

Messrs. Martin and Griffith were appointed a committee to escort President-elect Law to the chair. He briefly thanked the convention and asked its further pleasure.

MRS. WHITE—As the committee on place of meeting could not agree we must ask the convention to name the place.

Mr. Rodgers moved that the committee be excused from further consideration of the subject, and that the matter be referred to the convention as a committee of the whole. Carried.

MR. THORNTON—Charlotte (or Ontario Beach) is a good place. We had a meeting of the New York State Chess Association there this summer and we found good accommodations. By making arrangements beforehand they would probably give us good rooms in the hotel on the Beach

and at reasonable terms. The table is very good, and it is a pleasant place to meet. One objection to it is that you have to change cars at Rochester. You can take either the railroad from Rochester to Ontario Beach, or the trolley; and if you could not get accommodations at the Beach, you could get rooms at the hotels in Rochester, going back and forth morning and evening.

MR. MARTIN—To bring the matter before the convention, I move that we meet at Charlotte next year.

Seconded by Mr. Griffith, and carried.

Mr. Martin moved that the secretary-treasurer be allowed \$30 for reporting the proceedings of the convention. Carried.

Mr. Rodgers moved that the press of Syracuse is especially entitled to the gratitude of the association, for the exceptional space accorded the proceedings and the accuracy of its reports. Unanimously carried.

MR. LITTLE—Mr. President, I had slight opportunity to make any remarks upon motion just carried, and perhaps would not have availed myself of such opportunity had it been given me; but I am most heartily in sympathy with it, particularly in view of the space which has been allotted to our convention and its proceedings.

Mr. Thornton moved that a committee of three on legislation be appointed by the chair, which was carried.

Mr. Loeb moved that a vote of thanks be extended to the retiring officers for the manner in which they had performed their duties. Carried.

Mr. Rose offered the following: Resolved, that the thanks of this association be tendered to the proprietors of "The Yates" for the superb accommodations furnished us for the holding of our meeting.

President Law announced the following committees:

Legislation—Loeb, Thornton and Rose.

Printing—Rodgers, Martin and Hill.

Topics—Bishop, Griffith and Heffley.

Examining—J. P. Martin (1); E. B. Dickinson (2); S. C. Rodgers (3); Chas. F. King (4); Willis H. Porter (5); Theo. C. Rose (6); Thos. R. Griffith (7); Irving F. Cragin, (8).

Mr. Thornton moved that the thanks of the association be extended to Mr. Wilson, of Syracuse, for the courtesies shown by him to members of the association. Carried.

**PRESIDENT LAW**—If there is no further business to be transacted, we will proceed with the reading of papers.

The following paper was read :

### **An Honest Folio.**

BY HENRY C. DEMMING, HARRISBURG, PA.

A folio in England is said to be seventy-five words,—in the United States one hundred words. The transcript part of the work of the stenographer, unless on stipulated salary, is usually paid for by the folio. It becomes important, therefore, to determine exactly what a folio is ; and exactly what words make up a folio,—because to take a certain number of long and unfamiliar words as a guide, would be unjust to the reporter,; and, on the other hand, to count as words what now and then are counted, or guessed at, is unjust to the employer.

As to words, it is generally conceded that in shorthand reporting every figure used in the context is to be allowed as one word. Q. and A. in questions and answers are also counted as words. Also, every abbreviation. It is said that in some states every period is counted as a word. Why it is so, perhaps some one present can inform the association.

But the principal difficulty does not spring from any of the terms mentioned,—it comes from a different direction. And so directly sometimes, that there ought to be a uniform rule. Take a few sentences like "Nebuchadnezzar's conscientiousness resulted disastrously," and where are you? About four words to a line, Remington typewriter No. 2, where the average is about thirteen words. Would it not be well to endeavor to have a law passed in every state making a legal word four letters, or four letters and a space between the words, excepting the abbreviations and figures referred to; that there may be uniformity everywhere, and no disputations of moment when accounts are presented?

Nearly all transcripts from stenographic notes are now made by typewriter, and in at least one state even the writ-



ing of wills by typewriter is held as valid as if written with pen and ink. The next step could be easily taken, and the definition of a word, and a folio, laid down.

MR. LITTLE—I think the only way for the busy stenographer is to estimate the number of folios in a case, by the number of pages. He can easily determine about how many words there are on a page of transcript. Certainly he cannot be expected to count every word in a case, and if he reaches a close approximation I think it is all that is required.

MR. RODGERS—A folio in England in low law proceedings is 72 words; in chancery proceedings, 90 words. A folio is literally a leaf, and references to the writings of the older law authors are usually made by citing the folio, as it was the ancient custom to number the folio instead of the page. In New York state a folio is construed to mean one hundred words, counting every figure necessarily used as a word.

THE CHAIRMAN—I will say that the law in this state makes 128 words a folio in all transcripts or copies of official papers before a board of supervisors.

MR. BISHOP—So far as my experience goes I have never had any difficulty, and never had a disputed folio in my life. Suppose the folios should be measured by weight?

MR. ROSE—We think, down in our district, that life is almost too short to count words, so we are given to estimating our cases by the page, two folios to the page. If we indent the remarks of an attorney or the court, in order to make it more distinct and plain, and so it will catch the eyes of attorneys quickly when looking over the case, we think we are entitled to just as much as for a solid page. We indent at twenty on the typewriter scale all remarks of court and counsel, and it requires just as much time and is worth as much for this space as to write a solid page.

### **Shorthand Writing in Germany.**

BY DR. J. W. ZEIBIG, OF DRESDEN, SAXONY.

Meditating on what subject I could choose for a paper to be read at the 1896 meeting of the New York State Stenographers' Association, of which body I have the undeserved

honor to be a member, I thought best to treat of the History of German Shorthand ; trusting that my remarks may bring forth many facts not generally known, and may be of some interest to my fellow shorthand writers in the United States, —the more so from the fact that the conditions of our art in Germany are essentially different, in many ways, from those that prevail in America. Albeit there are taught and practised, in America, more than one system, I know nevertheless that amongst professional shorthand writers in your country there exists no such hostility, one towards another, as is to be found among those who represent the different systems in Germany. Further, in the United States shorthand is made use of officially, not only in legislative bodies but also in the courts ; while we in Germany have for half a century labored to attain this, but always without success. And there is another difference : the compensation of competent stenographers is very small in Germany, compared with that paid in your country. It seems that the work of shorthand writers is not so highly esteemed in Germany as it is in America and in some other countries. In brief, we German shorthanders have just cause to envy our professional brethren whose field of work is beyond the ocean.

Coming to the point in question itself, I am of the opinion that in Germany stenography dates from no earlier period than it does in England. Notices met with in books, indicating that already, in mediæval times, discussions and speeches had been preserved in Germany by means of any sort of shorthand, are fiction, void of reasonable foundation. Everyone well informed on the subject is aware that the merit of reviving the art after its long sleep, belongs to the English ; and it is not to be wondered at that the many references to the art attracted attention here and there, in Germany.

The first who, in Germany, presented a discussion of our art was Daniel Schwenter, Professor of Mathematics and Oriental Languages at the University of Altdorf, Nürnberg. He, in 1635, edited *Deliciæ physico-mathematicæ oder mathematisch-philosophische Erquickstunden* ; <sup>a</sup>—wherein, taking notice of the art of abbreviated writing already

<sup>a</sup> *Panstenographikon*, pp. 61—64.

known and modified by the Romans, he asked the question, if it were possible to write as fast as one speaks, or even faster. He advises that special characters be contrived, such as one thinks best for possible use in his business, by which whole words or entire phrases may be expressed by such an abbreviated manner of writing. He proposes, just as Bright did, to *excogitate arbitraries*, for the most frequent words and phrases.

George Philipp Harszdorffer<sup>b</sup>—continuing Schwenter's work, made mention of the art of fast writing, and hinted at the frequent use the English were making of shorthand. Without himself composing an alphabet, he recommended the one chosen by John Willis.

The first Manual of German shorthand appeared in 1679, as an adaptation of Charles Aloys Ramsay's *Tacheographia*<sup>c</sup>—presenting, no doubt, Shelton's or West's system. At the end of the eighteenth century, German authors grew more and more observant of shorthand writing. Instead of seeking to invent an original German stenography, they began to adopt English patterns; but inasmuch as there had not yet been felt a sensible want of such an abbreviated mode of writing, learned men as well as students still made use, in time of need, of the common abbreviations, and these expressions were without practical results.

Passing in silence over all less important facts, I limit myself to mentioning only the prominent authors of shorthand systems in Germany. Before all others in this list must be named Friedrich Mosengeil<sup>e</sup>, (1796 and 1819), and Karl Gottlieb Horstig<sup>f</sup>, (1798). Then follow Leo (1797), Bieling (1795), Danzer (1800), Berthold (1819), Heim (1819), Leichtlen (1819).<sup>g</sup> The first who, departing from the geometrical basis of English shorthand, showed his preference for the graphical, was Franz Xaver Gabelsberger<sup>h</sup>, who, since 1817, had been trying to search out an original shorthand, and who, two years later, was already

b. *Panstenographikon*, pp. 251—263.

c. *Ibid*, pp. 273—278.

e. Krieg, *Katechismus der Stenographie*, 2d Ed., p. 51.

f. *Panstenographikon*, pp. 175—192; Krieg, *ditto*, p. 52.

g. Krieg, *Ibid.*, p. 53—60.

h. Krieg, *Ibid.*, pp. 200—264.

able to give the proceedings of the first Bavarian Chamber by means of his new art. The series of experiences necessary to the bringing upon the carpet new shorthand methods, went further; and there came forth modifications of Horstig's Shorthand by Thon (1825), by Nowak (1830), by an Anonymous (1836), by Roth (1837), by Weichen (1850), by Sohnnitt (1852), by Binder (1855 and 1856), and by Wunderlich;—of Mosengeil's method, by Stark (1822); of Taylor's by Ellison von Nidle (1848), by Fischbaak (1857), by Hammer (1849);—of the Stenographie Duployé, by Schlict (1879), and by Weiler (1886). What shall I say of the whimsical proposals made by Erdmann (1826), by Lady Scott (1831), by Hauser (1854), Wilhelm Felsch (1860), Flotz (1868), etc.? To mention all the four hundred and more attempts made in Germany to achieve either alterations of already existing shorthand systems, or to bring out so-called original ones, would be as wearisome as it would be impossible, within these brief pages. The best summary of all these methods—to which every day are added new ones—and also specimens of the writing, you may find in Krieg's *Katechismus der Stenographie*, 2d edition.

Shorthand methods founded on geometrical bases have never struck deep root in Germany. I remember but one, a Mr. Winter, who, writing Horstig's adaptation of an English stenography, was taking down, with us Gabelsbergerians, the proceedings of the German National Assembly held 1848-1849 at Frankfurt-on-the-Main. Since then there has never been taught, or practised, anywhere in Germany, shorthand constructed according to an English prototype. The last adaptation of Pitman's phonography to German, by Driesslein (1884), has also been a failure. As to Gabelsberger's *Bedezeichenkunst*, as the inventor said, I cannot refrain from giving you some dates concerning its evolution and growth in Germany and abroad. After Gabelsberger's death in the year 1849, the first experiment was made to thoroughly examine into, and improve, the system;—this by the Central Association in Munich first, then by the Royal Stenographic Institute at Dresden. The resolutions in this line, adopted in 1857 by the meeting in Dresden, have been recognized as authoritative until this time, with

the exception of a very few changes which, in the course of time, practice has recommended. In order that alterations and improvements of the system should take place only by the common consent of the most expert writers of the system, in 1868 the Gabelsberger school founded a Union which, with the Royal Stenographic Institute, meets every fifth year somewhere in Germany; the last meeting having been held in Vienna in 1895, and the next being appointed to be held in Dresden. This Union and the Royal Stenographic Institute are given power not only to judge and pass on proposed alterations of the system, but also to consider proposals respecting the propagation of the system. The resolutions of these two bodies must be carried without discussion, or be thrown out by the meeting. So, the harmony of the Gabelsberger school is assured.

You know that this system is adapted to, and practiced effectively in, the representing of many foreign languages. This very year the Shorthand Writers' Association of Hungary, in Buda-Pesth, has taken the initiative in the effort to establish an International Union of Gabelsbergerians, made up of writers of all nations where the system is practised and taught. The first meeting will be held in September of this year. Though nearly half a century has elapsed since the death of Gabelsberger, stenographic notes written in this system more than forty years ago are still so legible that none of our pupils falters—when reading, for example, a letter of Gabelsberger's. Is not this fact strong evidence indicating the perfection of the Gabelsberger shorthand? Your new member, my friend Dr. Tombo, who was in attendance at the Chicago Congress of Stenographers, is always ready to explain the peculiarities of that system, and is publishing specimens of Richter's adaptation of it to English, in your American Magazine, "The Stenographer." Concerning the literature on the subject as issued in Germany, you may find a list of shorthand works and periodicals appertaining to the principal German methods that have appeared within the past year, in the year-book of the School of Gabelsberger, appended hereto, such as the Royal Stenographic Institute of Dresden is publishing every year; including a mention of the adaptations of the Gabelsberger

art to foreign languages. The Royal Stenographic Institute of Dresden is the only *official* body of stenographers in Germany. Its members, who are civil officers, receive a fixed, but, I regret to say, very inadequate salary, and a pension after their withdrawal from service. In Bavaria, Saxony and Austria-Hungary, the government has established committees of examiners composed of very expert practitioners of the Gabelsberger shorthand.

As to the growth of shorthand in Germany, at least as represented by the prominent systems, I take pleasure in giving you the statistics. Respecting Gabelsberger's method, the Dresden Institute publishes, every year, the results of carefully made inquiries into the increase in number of stenographic associations, the number of their active members, the teaching and practice of the system in Germany and abroad.<sup>j</sup> Some other systems have also published such statistics, but I cannot answer for the trustworthiness of their figures<sup>k</sup>.

Stolze's method, which is one of the rival shorthand systems in Germany, is a mere modification of Gabelsberger's. It is divided into the old, the middle and the new doctrines. Observe the comparison that is appended. The Arends' Kurzschrift is based on Fayet's French system. Roller and Lehmann (Stenotachygraphic,) formerly adherents of Arends' system, eager to themselves become shorthand authors, invented the devices with which their names are associated. The basis of the so-called Vereinsachte Stenography, published by Sohrey, Johnen and Lotin, is Gabelsberger's method modified. Velten's and Merkes' methods are alterations of Stolze's shorthand. Braunn's stenography somewhat resembles the Arends' method.

At the close of my remarks, I feel how unworthy and indifferent they are. This was all I had time to write. I hope you will be content for the present.

Finally, I cannot refrain from correcting an assertion to be found in the *Phonographic Magazine* of June 15th, which accepts as accurate the statement in a communication that appeared in the German Periodical *Wacht*, that

j. Cf. the appended *Year-Book* for 1896.

k. Merton's *Deutscher Stenographen Kalendar* für 1896, pp. 186-192.

"the stenographers of the German Parliament are not able to follow the very rapid speakers, and that the two reporters who take notes at the same time try to help each other fill in the gaps, but the chief labor in such cases falls upon the speaker himself." Now, I, who have myself been many years a stenographer to the Reichstag, have had abundant occasion and opportunity to observe how Gabelsbergerian and Stolzean stenographers do their duty ; and I must say, that they are very competent to follow the most rapid speakers. The statement referred to in the communication published in *Wacht*, is wholly without foundation ; is probably a mere calumny, put forth by some patizan of the so-called Vereinsachte Kurzschrift. I have no doubt the American Congressional reporters occasionally furnish reports that are not free from errors ; but I dare to state that the German stenographers are, in ability to do work of the highest character, by no means inferior to them. That must be said in deference to the truth.

## TEACHING.

## ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVE MEMBERS.

## SYSTEM.

SYSTEM.	(1.) Preussen für Sich.		(2.) Germany.		(3.) Abroad.		(4.) Total.		Taught in			Total.
	Ass'n's.	Mem- bers.	Ass'n's.	Mem- bers.	Ass'n's.	Mem- bers.	Ass'n's.	Mem- bers.	Prus- sia.	Ger- many.	Abroad	
Gabelsberger. ....	346	6,944	784	22,391	192	6,875	976	29,266	6,529	25,854	19,149	45,008
Stolze .....	358	10,245	486	13,986	85	2,701	571	16,637	8,979	11,807	2,869	14,176
Arends .....	110	2,592	156	3,421	53	1,203	209	4,721	3,109	4,334	398	4,727
Roller .....	129	1,825	214	3,308	33	593	252	3,896	2,546	5,069	790	5,859
Stenotachygraphy. ....	108	2,401	108	2,401	10	274	165	3,758	1,971	3,176	427	3,603
Veiten.....	58	840	85	1,329	6	82	91	1,811	1,033	1,612	84	1,696
Merks .....	36	469	46	660	2	10	48	1,296	871	1,492	31	1,523
Schrey .....	235	3,963	300	5,454	32	960	382	6,616	5,154	7,625	1,111	8,736
Brauns .....	1	b	6	162	2	8	8	206	.....	246	14	260
Total .....	1,875	29,284	2,232	54,040	420	12,696	2,652	67,706	30,092	60,715	24,866	85,583



At the conclusion of the reading of Dr. Zeibig's paper, the convention, on motion of Mr. Thornton, adjourned to the fourth Thursday in August, (26th,) 1897, to meet at Ontario Beach.

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Mr. Bishop, from the Committee on Topics, reported the following:

1. What education should be possessed, before the study of shorthand is undertaken by one intending to be an amanuensis, and what by one intending to be a general reporter?
2. The law stenographer, in relation to the courts of justice.
3. The future of the shorthand profession.
4. ISAAC PITMAN.
5. How should shorthand be taught? A course briefly outlined.
6. Is there need for a better duplicating process than any at present available?
7. How shall speed and legibility be gained by the beginner?
8. The humorous side of a reporter's life.
9. The benefits of phonographic journals, from the professional reporter's point of view.
10. Is a school of arts, or a scientific course, the more important for the professional stenographer?
11. What has "phonography" done for shorthand, as compared with what stenographic systems have enabled the reporter to accomplish?
12. For practical results, is the phonographic feature a distinct gain over the alphabetic in shorthand?
13. Is there any hope of improving the utterance for distinctness and reportability, of the younger members of the bar?
14. When the speaker's utterance passes the three-hundred-per-minute limit, what should the reporter do? Should he "tackle" the speech, or the speaker?

The following meetings of the association have been held since the original call of August 18, 1876 :

1. Syracuse, August 26, 1876.
2. Ithaca, August 20, 1877.
3. Rochester, August 21 and 22, 1878
4. Saratoga Spa., August 20 and 21, 1879.
5. Syracuse, August 19 and 20, 1880.
6. Buffalo, August 24 and 25, 1881.
7. New York, August 1 and 2, 1882.
8. Watkins, August 21 and 22, 1883.
9. Laurel House, Greene County, August 19, 1884.
10. Niagara Falls, August 18 and 19, 1885.
11. Caldwell, August 17 and 18, 1886.
12. Alexandria Bay, August 16 and 17, 1887.
13. Caldwell, August 21 and 22, 1888.
14. Alexandria Bay, August 20 and 21, 1889.
15. Mountain House, Greene County, August 19 and 20,  
1890.
16. Rochester, August 18 and 19, 1891.
17. Saratoga Spa, August 25 and 26, 1892.
18. Niagara Falls, August 24 and 25, 1893.
19. West Point, August 23 and 24, 1894.
20. New York, August 22 and 23, 1895.
21. Syracuse, August 27 and 28, 1896.

## OFFICERS N. Y. S. S. A.

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### PRESIDENT.

1876-77	W. W. Osgoodby.
1877-78	W. W. Osgoodby.
1878-79	P. Deming.
1879-80	S. C. Rodgers.
1880-81	C. G. Tinsley.
1881-82	Geo. H. Thornton.
1882-83	Geo. R. Bishop.
1883-84	Theo. C. Rose.
1884-85	A. P. Little.
1885-86	Wm. H. Slocum.
1886-87	W. O. Wyckoff.
1887-88	E. B. Dickinson.
1888-89	B. Moynahan.
1889-90	Henry L. Beach.
1890-91	Thos. R. Griffith.
1891-92	S. C. Rodgers.
1892-93	Geo. R. Bishop.
1893-94	Theo. C. Rose.
1894-95	Chas. F. King.
1895-96	Geo. H. Thornton.
1896-97	Robert R. Law.

### VICE-PRESIDENT.

W. O. Wyckoff.
W. O. Wyckoff.
D. C. McEwen.
Wm. H. Slocum.
Worden E. Payne.
Fred M. Adams.
A. P. Little.
B. Moynahan.
James M. Ruso.
Henry L. Beach.
Geo. C. Appel.
John B. Murray.
Thos. R. Griffith.
Chas. L. Guy.
Mrs. C. E. Brockway.
Geo. H. Thornton.
Chas. F. King.
Benj. W. Readshaw.
Norman P. Heffley.
Mrs. Clara A. White.
Peter P. McLoughlin.

### SECRETARY-TREASURER.

1876-77	C. G. Tinsley.
1877-78	C. G. Tinsley.
1878-79	William F. Duffield.
1879-80	Theo. C. Rose.
1880-81	Geo. H. Thornton.
1881-82	A. L. Woodward.
1882-83	Thomas H. Griffith.
1883-84	Herbert A. Briggs.
1884-85	M. Jeanette Ballantyne.
1885-86	Harvey Husted.
1886-87	*Wm. S. Kershner, (Theo. C. Rose).
1887-88	Theo. C. Rose.
1888-89	Henry L. Beach.
1889-90	Mrs. E. F. Rowley.
1890-91	Mrs. Clara A. White.
1891-92	Irving C. Hutchins.
1892-93	Wm. Loeb, Jr.
1893-94	Etta A. Emens.
1894-95	Kendrick C. Hill.
1895-96	Kendrick C. Hill.
1896-97	Kendrick C. Hill.

LIBRARIAN-1885-93	Mrs. Eliza B. Burns.
1893-97	Miss M. Jeanette Ballantyne.

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\*Deceased May 4, 1887.

## OFFICERS FOR 1896-97.

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### PRESIDENT.

Robert R. Law, - - - - Cambridge

### VICE-PRESIDENT,

Peter P. McLoughlin, - - - - New York

### SECRETARY AND TREASURER,

Kendrick C. Hill, - - - - New York

### LIBRARIAN,

Miss M. Jeanette Ballantyne, - - - Rochester

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

George H. Thornton, Chairman, Buffalo.  
Wm. Loeb, Jr., Albany; John H. Wilson, Syracuse;  
Wm. W. Osgoodby, Rochester; Mrs. Clara A. White, Elmira.  
Robert R. Law, *ex-officio*.

### EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

First District,	John P. Martin,	New York
Second District,	Edw. B. Dickinson,	Brooklyn
Third District,	Spencer C. Rodgers,	Troy
Fourth District,	Charles F. King,	Glens Falls
Fifth District,	Willis H. Porter,	Watertown
Sixth District,	Theodore C. Rose,	Elmira
Seventh District,	Thomas R. Griffith,	Rochester
Eighth District,	Irving F. Cragin,	Buffalo

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## CONVENTION COMMITTEES.

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### ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS.

A. P. Little, Henry L. Beach, William Loeb, Jr.

### NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.

Thomas R. Griffith, S. C. Rodgers, John P. Martin.

### PLACE OF MEETING.

W. W. Osgoodby, Mrs. Clara A. White, Miss Claribel Teller.

### AUDITING COMMITTEE.

S. C. Rodgers, Robert R. Law, John P. Martin.

### TOPIC COMMITTEE.

George R. Bishop, Thomas R. Griffith, Norman P. Hefley.

### PRINTING COMMITTEE.

Spencer C. Rodgers, John P. Martin, Kendrick C. Hill.

### LEGISLATION.

William Loeb, Jr., George H. Thornton, Theo. C. Rose.

## ACTIVE MEMBERS.

Agan, Lillian E.,	- - - - -	Penn Yan
Anderson, William,	- - - - -	27 Pine St., New York
Bailey, Charles H.,	- - - - -	Buffalo
Baker, Fred A.,	- - - - -	Criminal Court Building, New York
Balch, Charles W.,	- - - - -	99 Nassau St., New York
Ballantyne, M. Jeanette,	- - - - -	127 and 129 Powers Bldg., Rochester
Beach, Henry L.,	- - - - -	Binghamton
Beard, Frank S.,	- - - - -	Criminal Court Building, New York
Bensley, Mark F.,	- - - - -	Buffalo
Bird, W. Newton,	- - - - -	Floral Park
Bishop, George R.,	- - - - -	New York Stock Exchange, New York
Brice, David N.,	- - - - -	62 Spring St., Albany
Carey, John B.,	- - - - -	Court House, Brooklyn
Chaffee, W. G.,	- - - - -	Phonographic Institute, Oswego
Chapin, Robert C.,	- - - - -	Buffalo
Cleary, D. J.,	- - - - -	Plattsburgh
Cook, Arthur B.,	- - - - -	3 Broad St., New York
Cragin, Irving F.,	- - - - -	79, 80 White Building, Buffalo
Culver, W. R.,	- - - - -	Opera House Building, Lockport
Dickinson, Edw. B.,	- - - - -	Court House, Brooklyn
Dixenbury, Bertram L.,	- - - - -	35 Wall St., New York
Emens, Etta A.,	- - - - -	300 and 302 Powers Building, Rochester
Emens, Cora M.,	- - - - -	300 and 302 Powers Building, Rochester
Eyre, Harold,	- - - - -	197 Seventh Avenue, New York
Gokey, Charles F.,	- - - - -	New York
Griffith, Thomas R.,	- - - - -	409 Powers Building, Rochester
Hefley, Norman P.,	- - - - -	Hefley School of Commerce, Brooklyn
Hill, Kendrick C.,	- - - - -	117 Duane St., New York
Hutchins, Irving C.,	- - - - -	409 Powers Building, Rochester
Kelly, John F.,	- - - - -	51, 52, 53 Tweddle Building, Albany
King, Charles F.,	- - - - -	134 Glen St., Glens Falls
King, Henry G.,	- - - - -	Fort Edward
Law, Robert R.,	- - - - -	Cambridge
Little, A. P.,	- - - - -	409, 411, 412, 413 Powers Building, Rochester
Loeb, Jr., William,	- - - - -	452 Broadway, Albany
Lowe, A. W.,	- - - - -	Mexico
McLoughlin, Peter P.,	- - - - -	150 Nassau St., New York
Martin, John P.,	- - - - -	Court House, New York
Mason, Wm. L.,	- - - - -	156 Fifth Avenue, New York
Miller, Charles M.,	- - - - -	The Packard College, New York
Moore, Sarah A.,	- - - - -	Elmira
Moynahan, Bartholomew,	- - - - -	120 Broadway, New York
Munson, George W.,	- - - - -	Surrogate's Court, Rochester
Munson, James E.,	- - - - -	75 Tribune Building, New York
Murray, John B.,	- - - - -	Delhi
North, J. B.,	- - - - -	Fort Edward
Nugent, James,	- - - - -	129 E. 50th St., New York
Ormsby, Senter H.,	- - - - -	Mills Building, New York
Ormsby, Sidney C.,	- - - - -	Mills Building, New York
Osgoodby, William W.,	- - - - -	717, 718 Powers Building, Rochester
Pagan, C. F. H.,	- - - - -	Temple Court, New York
Parsons, Clarence A.,	- - - - -	55 Liberty St., New York
Porter, Willis H.,	- - - - -	Court House, Watertown
Potts, John R.,	- - - - -	World Building, New York
Readshaw, Dr. Benj. W.,	- - - - -	128 Bird Ave., Buffalo
Ridgway, Miss A. K.,	- - - - -	145 Broadway, New York
Hobbs, Edwin N.,	- - - - -	28 County Court House, New York
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Ryan, Richard W.,	- - - - -	15 Broad St., New York
Shalvey, Edward J.,	- - - - -	Court House, New York
Shaughnessy, Edward,	- - - - -	"The Columbia," Rochester
Smith, Henry G.,	- - - - -	County Court House, New York
Smith, E. Darwin,	- - - - -	409 Powers Building, Rochester
Soule, Herbert C.,	- - - - -	717 and 718 Powers Building, Rochester
Teller, Claribel,	- - - - -	Seneca Falls
Thomas, William M.,	- - - - -	Attorney General's Office, Albany
Thornton, George H.,	- - - - -	79, 80 White Building, Buffalo
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Walworth, George S.,	- - - - -	110 E. 125th St., New York
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White, Mrs. Clara A.,	- - - - -	Chemung Canal Bank Building, Elmira
Wilson, John H.,	- - - - -	Court House, Syracuse
Wood, Harry W.,	- - - - -	Criminal Court Building, New York
Woodie, Leopold,	- - - - -	96 Broadway, New York

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\* Deceased January 22, 1897.

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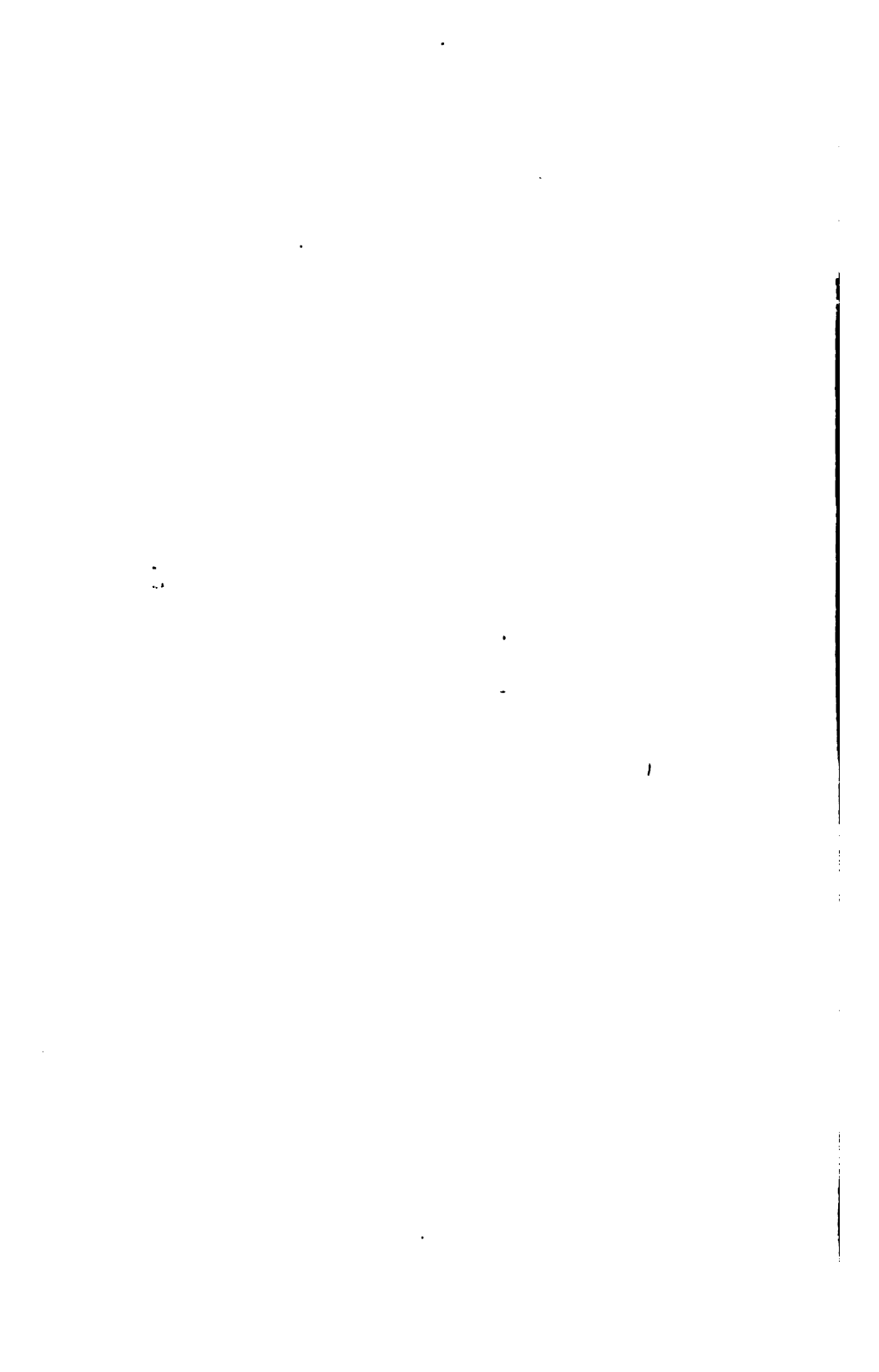




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